VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

RUMIC THEATER™ Vol. 2

ONE OR DOUBLE

STORY AND ART BY

RUMIKO TAKAHASHI

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CHAPTER ONE
THE DIET GODDESS

Santa Monica
anta Monica
BA-
BA-
BA-
BA-
BA-

MY STOMACH!
MY BACK!
BA-BUMP!
BA-BUMP!
BA-BUMP!
BA-BUMP!
HIDEOUS!!
SHK
HOW IS EVERYTHING?
I'LL TAKE IT.
UMM... BUT, MISS, IT DOESN'T REALLY...
I'LL TAKE IT!

GGGZZ-D
GGNGD
LOSE WEIGHT IN ONE WEEK...
The KANNON DIET
LOSE WEIGHT IN AN ELEGANT RESORT AREA
KANNON DIET CAMP...??
YEAH, WANT TO COME WITH ME?
YOU ACTUALLY APPLIED TO THIS PLACE, SHOKO?!?
"DIET CAMP"...? WHAT THE--?

IT'S OVER SUMMER VACATION...
...AND IT'S IN KARUIZAWA! THEY SAY IT'S FABULOUS THERE!
MEALS INCLUDED... TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS PER WEEK?! THAT'S DIRT CHEAP!
SEE? SEE?
IT'S TOO CHEAP, IF YOU ASK ME!
THERE MUST BE A CATCH!
BUT...
I'VE GOT TO LOSE WEIGHT.
GOSH
CLUBHOUSE
NEXT... !
BALLROOM DANCING CLUB

THE ANNUAL SENIOR FAREWELL DANCE...
...SPONSORED BY THE BALLROOM DANCING CLUB...
...WILL BE ON THE THIRD SATURDAY IN AUGUST.
THIS WILL BE OUR LAST ACTIVITY AS SENIORS.
OH, KASUGANO...
THIS WILL BE MY LAST CHANCE TO DANCE WITH HIM...
TAKE YOUR PARTNERS BY FORCE.
THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT "INFORMAL."
HA HA!
"INFORMAL"...

---MEAN-ING "ALL-OUT WAR."
SHOKO!
YOU LOOK STUN-NING IN THAT DRESS!
I WENT ON A DIET JUST TO DANCE WITH YOU.
SHOKO... YOU'RE...
...YOU'RE SO BEAUTI-FUL.

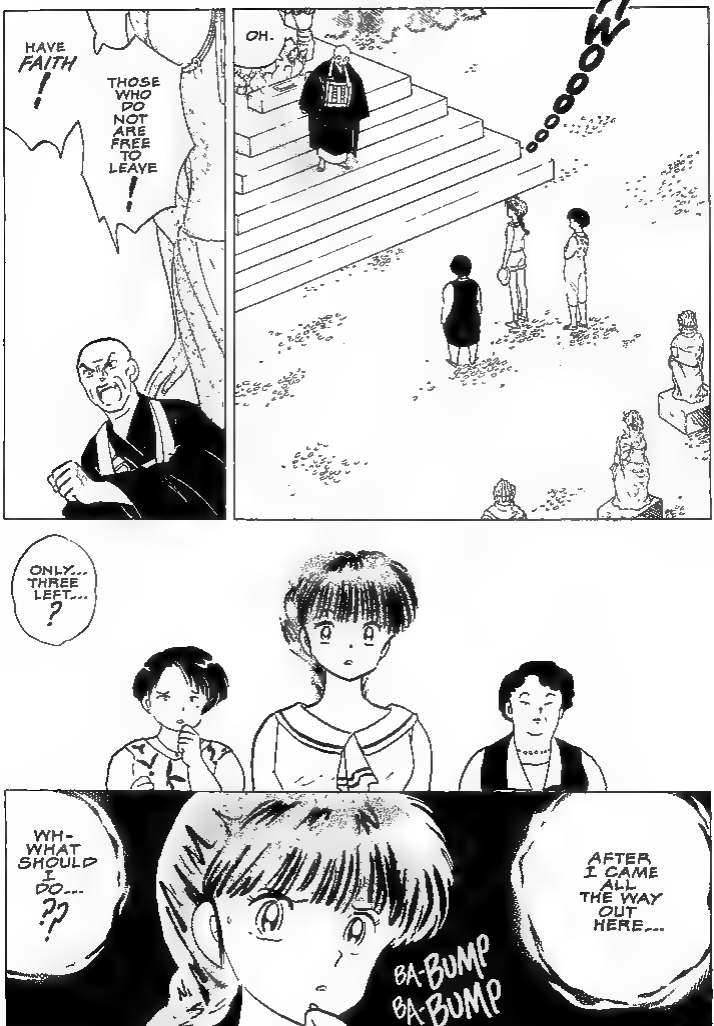
I'LL DO IT!
I'M GONNA WEAR THAT DRESS IF IT KILLS ME!
LET'S SEE...
KARUIZAWA STATION
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A VAN AT THE STATION.
ENJOY YOUR SUMMER SUNSHINE
EVERYONE FOR THE KANNON DIET CAMP... OVER HERE!
HUH? A PRIEST...?!?
THEY DIDN'T SAY IT WAS AT A TEMPLE!
WHAT ABOUT THE RESORT??
PSST PSST BEEP BEEP
HERE, I'LL TAKE YOUR BAGS.

THIS IS YOUR INSTRUCTOR, COACH YAMATO FUJISHIMA.
.....
....
ISN'T HE... A BIT YOUNG?
LIKE ABOUT... MY AGE?
BZZZ PSHT
ROME N.Y. PARIS
SEE YOU LATER, EVERY-ONE...!!
HEY!
WAIT A MIN-UTE!
VRMMMMM
IT'S TWENTY KILO-METERS TO THE TEMPLE!
BETTER START RUN-NING!!

HUFF HUFF HUFF!
WHEEZ WHEEZ WHEEZ!
ARE WE THERE YET?!?
WHAT'RE THEY DOING TO US?!
WHEEZ WHEEZ
SOB SOB
GASP GASP PANT
WELL... I GUESS THIS IS ONE WAY...
...TO LOSE WEIGHT!
HAF HAF HAF
THUH... THUH... TH-THIS...
CAW CAW CAW
...WASN'T EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!!

PRAISE TO THE GODDESS KANNON...
...FOR GUIDING YOUR STEPS TO THIS PLACE.
HEY, ARE YOU SURE WE'RE GONNA LOSE WEIGHT IN JUST ONE WEEK?!
HUFF HUFF
WHEEZ WHEEZ WHEEZ
HAVE FAITH.
BL OR B
WHAT'S THIS...
...A SUMO WRESTLER ??
THIS... IS THE GENEROUS FIGURE OF THE GODDESS KANNON.

A FIGURE, IN POINT OF FACT...
...NOT AT ALL UNLIKE YOURS.
STAB
...CHISEL HER SLIM IN ONE WEEK, AND YOU WILL FIND...
...THAT YOU BECOME SLIM AS WELL!
SHAVE OFF HER FLAB WITH A DEDICATED HEART...
HAH!
WH--WHAT IS THIS...?!?


HAVE FAITH!
THOSE WHO DO NOT ARE FREE TO LEAVE!
OH.
OOOOOH!
ONLY... THREE LEFT...?
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO...??
BA-BUMP BA-BUMP
AFTER I CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...

COACH YAMATO.
THREE CHICKS, HUM?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF 'EM.
CLARE
YOU.
UM... WHAT IS IT?
CHIRR-UP CHIRR-UP
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT?
YOU HATE YOUR OWN BODY?
WHAT?!
WHO DOES THIS GUY THINK HE IS?
ROME N.Y. PARIS

DO WE HAVE TO SAY WHY WE WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT?
IT'S FOR A GUY, RIGHT?
!!
FEH. HOW STUPID.
SHUT UP!!
WHAT OTHER REASON IS THERE FOR A GIRL TO LOSE WEIGHT?!
.....
....
I'LL DO ANY-THING...
...TO DANCE WITH KASU-GANO!
YEAH, YEAH. OKAY, ALL TOGETHER NOW...

HAVE FAITH IN THE GODDESS KANNON!
SNAP OR FLAME
YES!
FROM DAY ONE...
GASP GASP
FWOK
FAT... ONE!
VISSHHH
RUN WHEN YOU CHISEL HER!

MAKE THE SHAVED FAT AN OFFERING TO HER!
FFMP
WHISHH
RUN BACK!
FAT... TWO!
FWOK
AGAIN!
SINCE WE DON'T WANT TO OVERWORK YOU ON YOUR FIRST DAY...
...WE'LL STOP AT 108.
FWOK
FWOK
GOT IT!
FWOK
108--!
SOB SOB
FWOK
HUF!
HUF!
HUF!

I SHOULD HAVE LEFT. I SHOULD HAVE LEFT.
SOB SOB
W-WE CAN STILL GET OUT OF IT!
BUT... BUT...
...A WEEK OF THIS IS BOUND TO WORK!
LET'S STICK TO IT!
DON'T YOU SMELL SOMETHING FISHY HERE?
LIKE THAT COACH... WHAT ARE HIS QUALIFICATIONS?
PAT PAT
MRS. TAKASAGO--HOMEMAKER.
MISS HANAKAGO--OFFICE WORKER.
HE'S THE PRIEST'S NEPHEW, FROM TOKYO.
HE'S STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. CUTE, BUT TOO YOUNG FOR ME.
HE MIGHT BE JUST RIGHT FOR YOU, THOUGH, SHOKO.
I ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE I LIKE.

KRIK-IT KRIK-IT
.....
ONCE MORE...
I'LL TRY CALLING ONE MORE TIME.
YUKARI? IT'S ME...
YAMATO.
I WAS JUST WONDERING HOW YOU WERE DOING...
GOOD-BYE.
KLIK
.....
THE SECOND DAY...
TWIST YOUR HIPS!
FON FON FON
GOT IT--!

CARVE BY TWISTING THE HIPS...
OH, I SEE! IT'S AN EXERCISE FOR THE WAIST!
RUN FASTER!
FWAAAAAA
YOU'RE TOO SLOW!
SWAP
STAND UP!
HOW CAN YOU LOSE WEIGHT LIKE THAT--?!?
UM-MM...
HE'S ONLY PAYING ATTENTION TO SHOKO.
DRAAAG!
SWHEWE THIS ICED TEA IS GOOD!
HE MUST REALLY LIKE HER.
WHY ARE YOU PICKING ON ME?!
WHAT DID I DO?!

YOU GONNA GIVE UP AND GO HOME?
NOT A CHANCE!
ROAR
AHA! GAZING INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES...
LUCKY.
A FEW DAYS PASS...
JUST RICE...A BOWL OF BROTH... AND ONE VEGETABLE A DAY...
SOB SOB
IT'S DIET FOOD, ALL RIGHT.
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!!
FWOK
AGH!
I WON'T LET THAT JERK OUTDO ME!
AND SO..
FWOK
FWOK
FAT... 204!!
Brrr Brr Brr

KRAK-IT KRAK-IT
OH!
WOBBLE
I LOST WEIGHT !!
CHIPS
VR OOM
WHPP WHSH
KRAAK
FFFp
ONE MORE INCH !
LUCKY...
THAT'S WHAT COMES OF INDIVI-DUAL ATTEN-TION.
SNNCH
HEH.
I'LL SHOW HIM DEDICA-TION...

HEE HEE HEEEE! GOOD MORNING, COACH!
LET'S HAVE ANOTHER WORKOUT, SHALL WE?
WHY'S SHE IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD...?
THANKS TO YOU, I'M ABOUT TO ACHIEVE MY AMBITION!
AMBITION, HUH...?
YOU CALL WEARING TIGHT CLOTHES TO SNAG SOME GUY AN AMBITION?
HUH?
YOU LOOK STUNNING IN THAT DRESS.
H-HEY... THAT'S NOT WHAT I...
FEH.
ALL WOMEN ARE ALIKE.

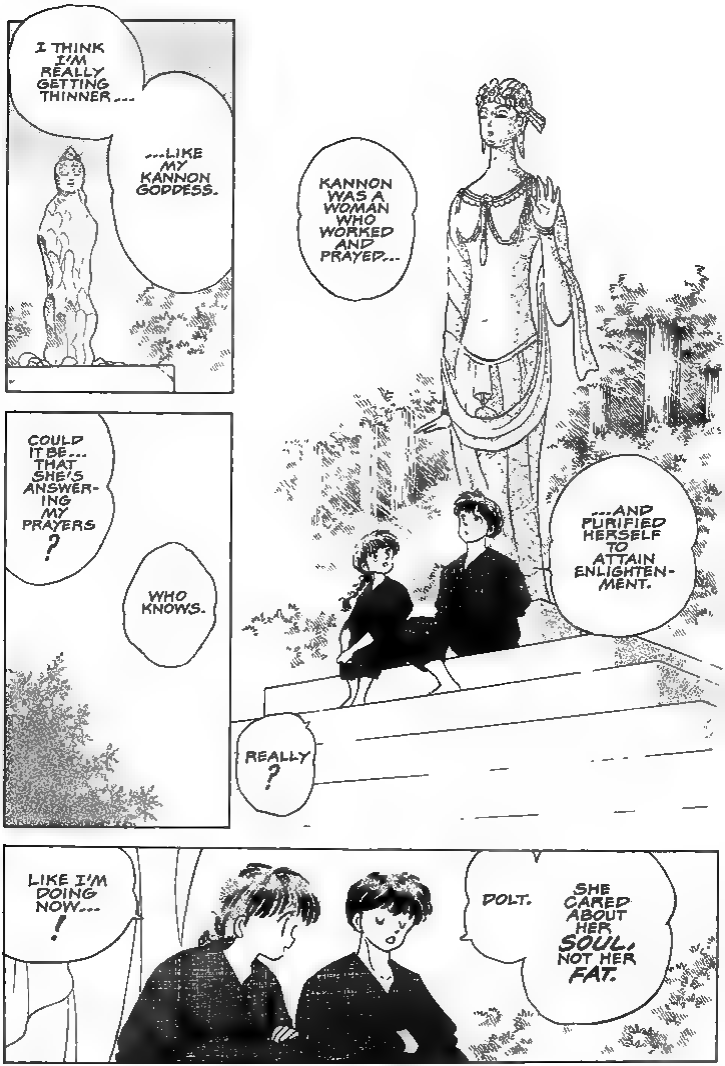
"ALL WOMEN"...
??
ONE AND ONLY
WHO'S "ALL WOMEN"
?!?
OH, PUT A LID ON IT. I WAS JUST MAKING A GENERALI-ZATION.
.....
....
WAAAAIT A MINUTE...
HEY, COACH! I HEARD YOU BLEW ALL YOUR SAVINGS ON SOME OLDER WOMAN WITH A GREAT BOD... AND THEN SHE DUMPED YOU!
HA HA! WOTTA DOPE!
POOR GUY.
STAB
GRRRR GRRRR
VROOOOM
AAR RGH!
AND HE...
...HE WAS TAKING IT OUT ON ME!

THE COACH DIDN'T COME BACK, DID HE?
AFTER YOU HUMILIATED HIM LIKE THAT?
OH, NO...
CAW
CAW
CAW
...IF HE DOESN'T FINISH THE JOB, I'LL NEVER GET TO DANCE WITH KASUGANO...
...
I'M SO...
...PATHETIC.
FWOK
WHA--WHA--?!
OH, LOSE THE SELF-PITY. SO YOU GOT DUMPED. BIG DEAL.

LOOK, I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING... JUST SO YOU DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA---
I'M TOTALLY DEVOTED TO SOMEONE.
TO A GUY WHO'D SEND A GIRL OFF TO A SLEAZY DIET CAMP?
I WISH I COULD SEE HIS FACE.
HEH.
WANT TO? HE'S A MILLION TIMES COOLER THAN YOU.
HERE!
SAP
WHERE?
HERE.
HERE
UMM-MM...
NOT EXACTLY A CLOSE-UP, IS IT?
IT'S THE BEST I COULD DO.

YOU SEE...
...HE'S NEVER EVEN NOTICED ME.
OH...
CAW CAW
SHE DOES ALL THIS FOR UN-REQUITED LOVE...
FWOK
MAN, WHAT A MORON !!
FWOK
OUCH !!

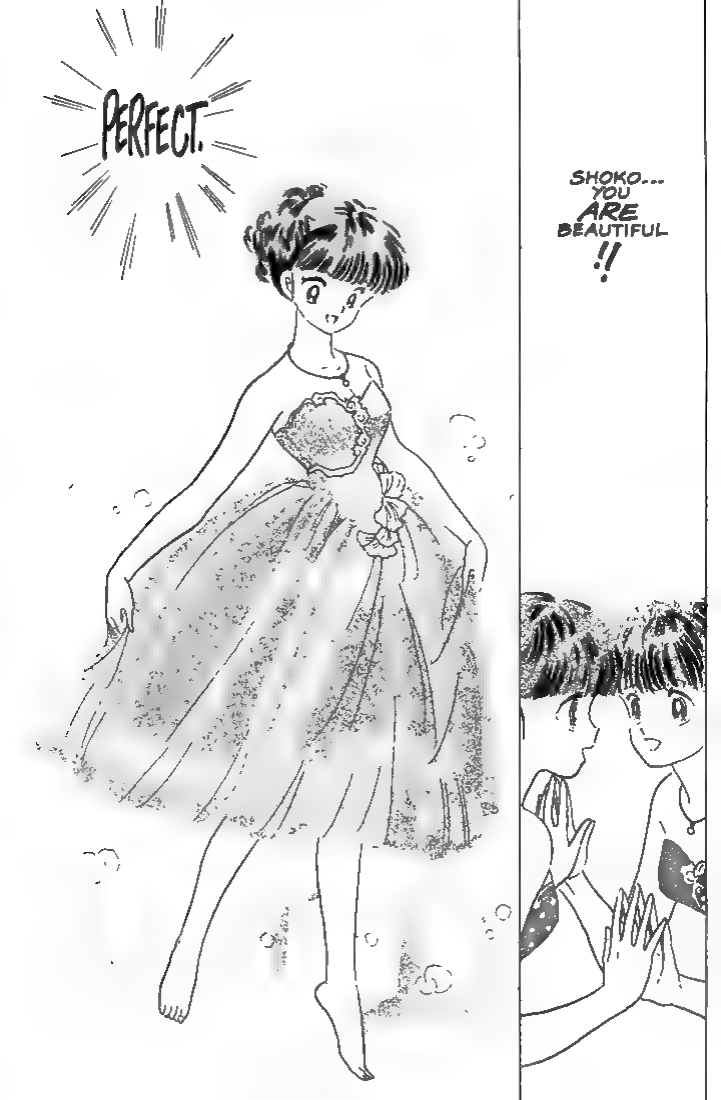
OH, A BLISTER.
THAT LOOKS PAINFUL.
SHWIP
HUH?
GLOVES??
YOU'LL BE HOLDING HANDS IF YOU DANCE.
YOU DON'T WANT HIM FEELING YOUR CALLUSES, DO YOU?
OH...
...THANKS.
HE DOES HAVE A KIND SIDE...


I THINK I'M REALLY GETTING THINNER...
...LIKE MY KANNON GODDESS.
KANNON WAS A WOMAN WHO WORKED AND PRAYED...
...AND PURIFIED HERSELF TO ATTAIN ENLIGHTEN-MENT.
REALLY?
COULD IT BE... THAT SHE'S ANSWER-ING MY PRAYERS?
WHO KNOWS.
LIKE I'M DOING NOW...!
DOLT.
SHE CARED ABOUT HER SOUL, NOT HER FAT.

I GUESS SO...
BUT...
...IT'S JUST THAT I REALLY WANT TO BE PRETTY!
AS IF SHE ISN'T ALREADY...

A WEEK PASSES...
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING!
WHAT A FRAUD! I DIDN'T LOSE A POUND!
SOB SOBB
COACH!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL ME THAT ANY MORE.
OKAY... YAMATO. THANKS...
...FOR EVERY-THING. BYE...
UM...
YEAH?
OH, NOTHING...
JUST...
...YOU DID PRETTY WELL.
.....
....

REALLY---
??
WILL IT FIT---
?
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP


PERFECT.
SHOKO... YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL !!

I WISH HE COULD SEE ME NOW.

KASU-
GANO...
BA-
BUMP
BA-
BUMP
KASU-
GANO...
K-K...
KASU-
GANO...
BA-
BUMP
WHAT
?
SHOKO...
YOU
LOOK
STUNNING
IN
THAT
DRESS.
OH...

SURE. YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND.
SWOOP
C'MON, KASUGANO, LET'S DANCE.
NO WAY!!
DID YOU HEAR? KASUGANO IS GOING OUT WITH KAGAMI-YAMA!
...SO STUPID..
I-I I'M...
I HEAR HE LIKES CHUBBY GIRLS.
SHOKO? ARE YOU LEAVING?
SUDDENLY, I... I DON'T FEEL WELL.
I COULD JUST DIE!

TUP TUP
YAMATO...!?

I WANTED...
...TO SEE YOU IN A DRESS
YOU LOOK...
...REAL NICE.

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?
CERTAINLY...

VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

RUMIC THEATER

1 ONE OR DOUBLE

Story and Art by

Rumiko Takahashi

CHAPTER TWO

EXCUSE ME FOR BEING A DOG!

STOP FIGHTING, YOU TWO! DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?!
BOW WOW WOW
YOU'LL BE LATE, SHIRO!
SHIRO, DO YOU NEED SOME KLEENEX?
DON'T GET A BLOODY NOSE!
QUIT FOLLOWIN' ME, POP!
RRRR RR
Goya
OWE OWE OWF
CHOMP
AH!
EEEE!

WUMP
UN-HAND ME, CUR!
OW! OW! GRR
ISN'T THAT THE BOY FROM THE PET SHOP?
OH, YES... THE ONE THAT JUST OPENED...
PST PST
PSST PSST
RRR..?
PSST PSST
PSST PSST
Y'SEE, FLEA-BAG?
THEY'RE ALL STARIN' AT US!
HI THERE!
OWF!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WE WERE JUST FOOLIN' AROUND.
SALE
THIS IS MY DOG. I CALL HIM POP!
Glen TEA
PSST PSST
NOOG! NOOG!
RRR

GEEZ.
THAT OLD LUNATIC...
HUH?
SNIF SNIF
IT BELONGS TO... A GIRL!
TOGA-KUSHI, LEAVE ME ALONE!
I REGRET HAVING TO ABDUCT YOU.
BUT I MUST HAVE YOUR SINCERE ANSWER.
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU EIGHTEEN TIMES!
I WON'T GO OUT WITH YOU!

FEH-
IT'S ONLY BEEN SEVENTEEN TIMES.
I WON'T GO OUT WITH YOU!
NOW IT'S EIGHTEEN!
SWAP
MOMOKO!!
FLIP
WISHH
GASP!
JAB JAB
JAB
JAB
MM-
NO WONDER YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARTIAL ARTS CLUB.
TAP TAP

OUT OF MY WAY!
I'M GOING TO BE LATE!
JAB JAB
BAP
YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL FORM, MOMOKO!
I ADORE A WOMAN WHO DOESN'T PULL HER PUNCHES!
WISH!
DON'T TEMPT ME---!
MOMOKO, I LOVE YOU!
SHHUU
EEEP!
BAP...
WHAT, YOU WANT TO GIVE HER A BLOODY NOSE?

UM... THIS IS YOURS, ISN'T IT?
HERE.
UM... UHH...
GRRND
YOU!
THAT WAS A SEDUC-TION...?!
YOU THWARTED MY SEDUC-TION!
NO MORE TALK!
SHUu
WHOA!!
SHUu
HEY, WAIT!
OH, WHAT BEAUTIFUL FOOT-WORK YOU HAVE!
I ADORE FOOT-WORK!
SHU SH UU
DON'T TEMPT ME!
.....
.....

STINKY CHEESE HERE! STINKY CHEESE!
STINKY CHEESE CO
UGH!
SHH HH...
WHOP
OH!
OH...
SPURT
YAAA!
NOSE-BLEED! NOSE-BLEED!
HEY!
WAIT...
HEH...
NOW ALL OBSTACLES ARE RE-MOVED.
AHEM!
NOW, MOMOKO... IT IS JUST WE TWO!
PAP
WHAPP
YOU MEAN JUST YOU ONE!
AMBUSH! AMBUSH!

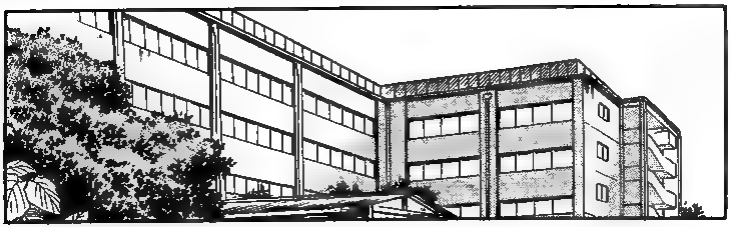
I WAS SURE HE CAME THIS WAY...
WHAT NOW?
I DIDN'T GET TO THANK HIM...
I WONDER IF I EVER WILL...
.....
....
HAHH HAHH HAHH
RELATIVELY HIGH SCHOOL
FIRST OFF...
...LET'S MEET OUR NEW TRANSFER STUDENT.
MY NAME'S SHIRO INUGOYA.
.....
....
THANKS FOR THIS MORNING.
I'M MOMOKO KURUSU.
.....
....

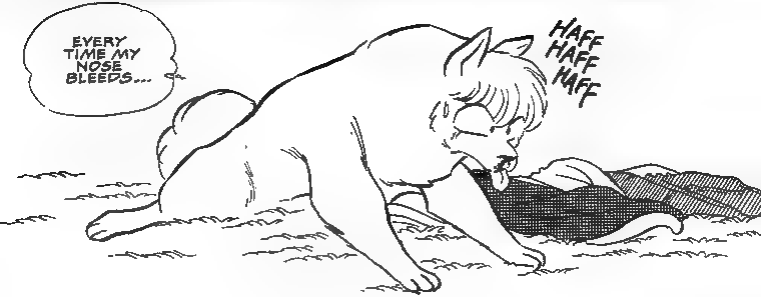
WHERE AM I---?
WHY AM I HERE?
SILLY. IT'S AFTER SCHOOL!
TIME FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES!
拳闘部
THE MARTIAL ARTS CLUB.
SHHHH
HSSSHH
HUH?
JAB JAB
WHAT THE---?!
WISHH

DA DA DA DA DA DA
BA BA BA BA
MY GOD!
WHAT A LEAP!
THE SPEED AND POWER OF A WILD DOG! ※
※ WILD DOG= STRAY MUTT
WOOOOOOOOOOOOO
HEY, NOT BAD, KID!
GREAT PUNCH!
BUT I JUST DUCKED!
WOBBLE WOBBLE
RELATIVELY!

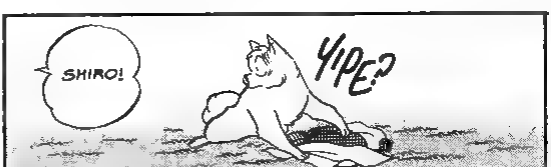
I KNEW IT JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU!
YOU'RE CHAMPION MATERIAL!
RELATIVELY!
LATIVELY!
YOU'RE THE HOPE OF OUR CLUB!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME GREAT FIGHTS!
SQUISH
WAIT A MINUTE!
AM I REALLY THAT GOOD...
...OR ARE YOU GUYS THAT BAD?
HE'S GOT US THERE!
RIGHT.
RELATIVELY!
RELATIVELY!
AND IF WE LOSE OUR NEXT MATCH...
...THEY'RE GOING TO CLOSE OUR CLUB.
SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT MY PROB-LEM.
I REALLY CAN'T JOIN.
BUT...
WAIT! PLEASE!
I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT.

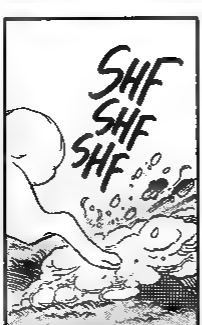
HEY!
YOU COULD JUST LISTEN...
I CAN'T.
YOU... EGO-TIST !!
BOOT
I'M AN EGO-TIST ?!
MINE! NO, MINE!
YOU ONLY WANT ME FOR YOUR SELF-ISH...
B-BLU
OH...
ARE... ARE YOU OKAY ?!
YAAAA! NOSE-BLEED! NOSE-BLEED!
KROOM
SHIRO, WAIT !
NYOOP
AK!




EVERY TIME MY NOSE BLEEDS...
HAFF HAFF HAFF

I MEAN NO HARM...
WHY MUST I ALWAYS RUN AWAY LIKE A DOG?
OF COURSE, I AM A DOG...


SHIRO!
YIPE?


SHF SHF SHF

HE'S GONE...

IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
I'LL HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM.
AT LEAST SHE ADMITS IT!
HM ?
ERK!
.....
....
HERE, BOY.
TCH TCH TCH
DID YOU GET HURT?
YOUR NOSE IS ALL BLOODY.
THERE YOU GO.
ALL BETTER NOW.
GULP

THE NEXT DAY
AT THIS RATE...
...OUR NEXT MATCH IS DOOMED.
IF ONLY WE COULD HAVE GOT SHIRO.
FOR-GET ABOUT IT.
HUP-TWO-THREE
I MEAN, FOR ALL WE KNOW...
...HE CAN'T EVEN THROW A PUNCH!
HEY! YEAH!
HM ?
THUD WHUD
拳闘部
THUDDD
.....
THUD WHUD
RELATIVELY
MITT !
POP
SHIRO!

JAB
BAP
JAB
BAP
BAP
WILL YOU? PLEASE?
OKAY.
SHIRO...
SIGH
DADADA
SHIRO !!
NOW WE'VE GOT A CHANCE !
WE CAN KEEP OUR CLUB!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEHH
TOGA-KUSHI !!
LEAVE ME ALONE !
NOW, NOW, MOMOKO.
I DIDN'T COME TO ASK YOU OUT TODAY.
I CAME TO CHAL-LENGE YOU!
DOKI DOKI
IN TEN DAYS!
IN THE EX-TREMELY HIGH GYM!
AND IF WE WIN...YOU WILL GO OUT WITH ME!
OOOO-WEEE!
SO YOU DID COME TO ASK ME OUT!
IF WE WIN...YOU LEAVE HER ALONE.
SHIRO...
YOU. FROM THE OTHER DAY...
FU SH

SIZZLE
TOGA-KUSHI'S A FREAK. BUT HE'S STRONG.
WHEN HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT A FIGHT...
WELL, HE'S THE PREFECTURAL CHAMPION AND ALL...
BUT...
...YOU DON'T LIKE HIM... RIGHT?
HE'S DOING IT... FOR ME...?
SIGH

DADADADA
SHIRO!
YOU GOTTA WIN!
YOU'RE MOMOKO'S ONLY HOPE!
YOU?! IN A FIGHT?!?
THOP
BA-DONNNG
INUGOYA PETS
INUGOYA PETS
WHAT IF YOU GET A BLOODY NOSE?
IT'S OKAY!
DONG
HEADS UP, SHIRO!
THHOP
I'LL JUST MAKE SURE I DON'T GET HIT IN THE FACE!
PIECE OF CAKE.
DONG
ZIIPP
EXCUSE ME.
ANY-ONE HOME?
YES?
G-GOOD EVENING.

OH, YES. THE GIRL FROM THE CLUB...
YES, AND... UM...
I MADE THESE... UMM... SHORTS...
...FOR SHIRO.
AHEM...
HOW SWEET!
SHIRO'S PRACTICING OUT BACK.
COME IN.
I JUST WISH HE WOULDN'T RISK HIMSELF BY FIGHTING...
SIGH...
DONNNGG
WHAT...?
GULP!
"RISK HIMSELF"...
??
SHIRO! IT'S MOMOKO
!
THOPooo
YIPE
OH...HI THERE.
UM... WHERE'S SHIRO...
?
I-I'LL GET SOME TEA.
PATA PATA
DNG DNG!

OH...
THAT DOG...!
LICK LICK
IS HE YOUR DOG?
SORT OF...
HE'S CALLED SHIRO... TOO.
WAG WAG
DO YOU LIKE DOGS?
OH, YES!
I LOVE THEM!
GHU
UM... MR. INUGOYA?
YES?
IS THERE...
...SOMETHING WRONG WITH SHIRO?
!!
WELL, ACTUALLY...
BOW WOW WOW WOW!!
!!
...THIS FIGHT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM.
BUT... IF IT'S NOT GOOD FOR HIS HEALTH...

HE SAYS HE WANTS TO DO IT.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...
...HE'LL FEEL IT WAS WORTH IT.
HE WAS CRYING...
HWOOOOOOOOO
POOR SHIRO MUST BE HIDING...
...SOME LIFE-THREATENING DISEASE.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STOP HIM, ARE YOU?
THE MEN OF OUR FAMILY ARE CURSED TO TURN INTO DOGS WHENEVER OUR BLOOD FLOW IS STIMULATED.
IT'S NO USE FIGHTING IT.
RATTLE
PERHAPS THIS WILL TEACH HIM SOME SELF-CONTROL.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING.
YOUR BLOOD FLOW GETS STIMULATED EVERY TIME YOU LAUGH.
....
....
FU-
RE-KO
SPURT
BOW WOW WOW
HA HA HA
FOOL!!
ROW ROW AHRRRRR!
BOW WOW
STOP FIGHTING, YOU TWO!!

SHIRO, TELL ME IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL, OKAY...?
I'M FINE.
CHIRIN
WHAT ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT?
STINKY CHEESE HERE! STINKY CHEESE!
MOO
UGH!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
JUH-- JUST...
URGLE
SORRY.
KREEK
.....
....
GOD, I HATE THIS.
WHY DO I HAVE TO KEEP MY DOG'S SENSE OF SMELL?!
HAHH HAHH
HAHH HAHH
SHIRO, DON'T DO THIS TO YOURSELF!
JUST FORFEIT THE MATCH!
HUH?

IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU...
I... I'D...
.....
....
I THINK THERE'S SOME CONFUSION HERE...
UM... THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN.
I KNOW I'M AN UNDER-DOG...
...BUT I CAN'T JUST PUT MY TAIL BETWEEN MY LEGS AND RUN, CAN I?
SPEAKING OF WHOM...
WATER! WATER!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE!!
WHY DID TOGAKUSHI CHALLENGE A BANTAM-WEIGHT TO A MATCH...
...WHEN HE'S A MIDDLE-WEIGHT??
'CAUSE HE'S A MORON, THAT'S WHY.
THAT TOGA-KUSHI'S TOO COCKY... TOO FULL OF HIM-SELF...
HSSSHH
BOOM BOOM
DO NOT FEED
TUP TUP

THE DAY OF THE MATCH
THEY CALL IT A PRACTICE MATCH... BUT IT COULD BE A SWAN SONG!
IS THIS GOODBYE TO THE RELATIVELY HIGH MARTIAL ARTS CLUB?!
EXTREMELY HIGH
YOU'RE IT, SHIRO! THE ONLY ONE LEFT!
AND OUR ONLY HOPE!
WHAT, ALREADY...?
RAAH!
FWWW...
YAY...
SHIRO, DON'T PUSH YOURSELF.
BUT... TRY TO WIN.
DON'T SAY THAT!
TELL ME TO GO FOR IT!
BRRRR
WINNING
MO... MO... KOOO...
HEHHH...
REMEMBER... YOUR... PROMISE...?
EEYAA!
LOOK! IT'S A SKELETON!
OOOO! GROSS!
FAREWELL RELATIVELY HIGH!

YUCK!
EWww!
TOGAKUSHI, I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT MUCH STAMINA TONIGHT.
N-NO?
THIS PILL WILL GIVE YOU ENERGY.
PING
IT'S MADE FROM GARLIC!
URRBLE URRBLE
WHAT'S WRONG?!
DI
GUZZZZ
WINNING
DA DA DA DA
BACK BACK BACK
ROAR ROAR
JAB JAB
INUGOYA'S BEING CAUTIOUS!
GIVING TOGAKUSHI AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF ROOM!

FIGHT ME, INUGOYA !!
RR GH!
MWAH
BLAP
TOGA-KUSHI LANDS A HARD RIGHT !
INUGOYA'S GOING DOWN !!
WAIT!
KWIPP
YA A Y!
WOO! WOO!
HE'S STILL ON HIS FEET !
THAP
FIGHT !
SHUU
SHUU
FIGHT !!
DON'T TALK, IDIOT !
DINNNNNNNNNNNNNNG
ROUND TWO !
IT'S A RISK...
BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY...
VROOOOOM

BWAP
WINNING
WHOA !
SHHUUU
ROAR
TOGA-KUSHI'S SWINGING !!
BUT HE'S RUNNING OUT OF BREATH!
ZEE ZEE ZEE ZEE
ZEE ZEE
GASP GASP
EASY... NOW...
SHIRO, ARE YOU...
...HOLDING YOUR BREATH ??
HU OH!
GASP
HHH SHH
IT'S A RIGHT CROSS TO INUGOYA'S FACE!!

BLOOD. I...I... HAVE TO...
...RUN...
NO.
IF I RUN NOW...
WHONG
MOMOKO !!
KAA
INUGOYA BOUNCES OFF THE POST AND LANDS A PILE DRIVER!
SAY... IS IT JUST ME, OR DOES HE LOOK KIND OF HAIRY ALL OF A SUDDEN ?!

THEY'RE OUT OF THE RING !!
WHMMMMMMMM
GASP!
AAA!
MO... MO... KO...
EXIT
VROOOM
WINNING
SHIRO ?!?
BZZZ BZZ...
HSSHSH
SHIRO...
HHNN HHNN
SKRCH SKRCH
WINNING

SHIRO...
?
...ZZZZ
SO... NOW THAT YOU KNOW...
.....
....
SHAKE!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? I LOVE DOGS!
WOOF
?

CHAPTER THREE

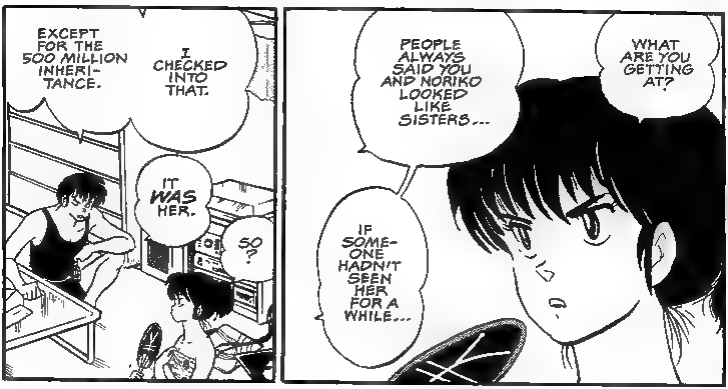
TO GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE WE GO

"...THE WILL LEAVES WOODLANDS WORTH 500 MILLION YEN TO HER GRANDDAUGHTER NORIKO, WHO HAS BEEN MISSING FOR TWENTY YEARS..."
BUT THE TERMS EXPIRE IN TEN DAYS!
JEEZ...
...I DIDN'T KNOW NORIKO EVEN HAD A FAMILY.

I'LL GO CHECK WITH HER.
SUSUMU, DON'T!
HEY, NORIKO!
DID YOU HAVE A GRANDMA WHO...
SLAM
TOKYO DAILY

SHE JUST PASSED AWAY.
NORI...?
GOOOO
NORI!!!
CHIR-RRRR CHIR-RRRR
CHIKUTTA
CHIKUTTA
CHIKUTTA
YOU'RE NOT EVEN MAD?
YOU TOOK CARE OF HER WHILE SHE WAS HOSPITAL-IZED...
YOU EVEN WENT TO THE CREMATOR-IUM...AND ALL YOU GET IS--
--ONE LOUSY GOOD-LUCK CHARM?!
IT DOESN'T MATTER. SHE WAS MY FRIEND.
WASABI

"MY GRANDMOTHER GAVE THIS TO ME WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL..."
"IT REALLY DOES BRING GOOD LUCK."
OH, YEAH, GREAT LUCK!
WELL... SHE WAS POOR...


EXCEPT FOR THE 500 MILLION INHERITANCE.
I CHECKED INTO THAT.
IT WAS HER.
SO?
PEOPLE ALWAYS SAID YOU AND NORIKO LOOKED LIKE SISTERS...
IF SOMEONE HADN'T SEEN HER FOR A WHILE...
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

HELLO-OOOO, NORI!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

YOU WANT ME TO STEAL MY FRIEND'S INHERITANCE ?!?
I DON'T CARE HOW POOR WE ARE...
OPEN UP!
WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
BAM BAM

ATTENTION, NEIGHBORS!
NEVER LOAN MONEY TO THESE PEOPLE!
THEY PILE UP HUGE DEBTS, BUT WHEN IT'S TIME TO PAY...
BAM BAM
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!!
HOOP
YOUR NEXT STOP IS JAIL!!
BAM BAM
SO WHERE'S THIS 500 MILLION-YEN FAMILY...??
IN PREFECTURE N...
PWWEEEEEEEEE
CHIKUTTA CHIKUTTA
"FROM GRANDMA."
"PROTECT US FROM POVERTY AND SUFFERING."
STOP IT. IT'S DEPRESSING.
KA-KLA
BUT IT BRINGS GOOD LUCK...
KKA-KA-KA-KLAK-KLAK
LIKE IT BROUGHT NORIKO? RIGHT.
MOM, LOOK...
Zz...

THIS IS... NO-WHERE.
DON'T SCREW THIS UP, OKAY?
DON'T WORRY. SHE TOLD ME ENOUGH STORIES ABOUT HER CHILDHOOD.
EXCUSE ME!

YES...?
UMM... I'M NORIKO.
THIS IS MY LAWYER, MR. YOKOSHIMA.
HELLO.
THIS WAY.
CHIRR-REEK CHIRR-REE
HEY. I GOT ANOTHER ONE.
"ANOTHER ONE"... ?? MR. YOKOSHIMA...
KEEP YOUR HEAD... HONORED "CLIENT."
COME ON IN.

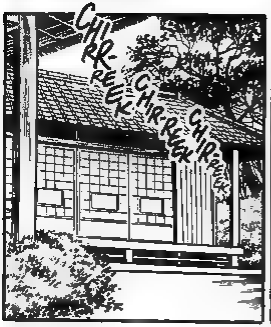
UMM..
DON'T BOTHER SAYING ANYTHING.
YOU'RE NUMBER TEN.
ACTUALLY, NUMBER ELEVEN.
THEY ALL THINK WE'RE DUMB HICKS.
THEY FORGE DOCUMENTS, BRING FAKE LAWYERS...
ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT THROUGH TO FORGE THIS REGISTRY.
SHOOT.
THERE WOULD NEVER BE AN END TO IT...
...SO WE DECIDED TO LET GRANDMOTHER HERSELF DECIDE.
BUT...
ISN'T SHE DEAD?
WE'RE HAVING A SEANCE.

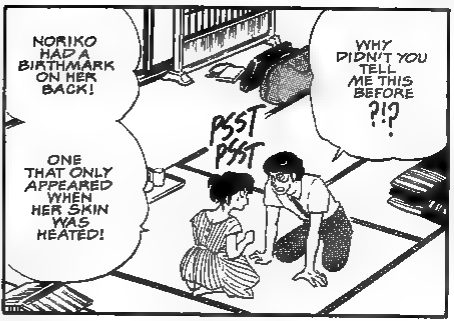
SHAKK
SI-LENCE !!
GASP
SHKKA
SHKKA
SHKKA
SHKKA
SHKKA
OH, GRANDMA.. PLEASE HELP US...
MMZZ..
MMZZ!!
I REALLY TOOK CARE OF NORIKO WHEN SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.
IF YOU GIVE US THE MONEY, THE FIRST THING I'LL DO IS GIVE HER A PROPER BURIAL...
HKCK
SHE'S HERE.
GRAND-MOTHER IS HERE.
.....
.....

ONLY... THE REAL NORIKO...
...WOULD HAVE... THE CHARM I GAVE HER...
YOU...
MEAN...
THIS CHARM?
THIS CAN'T BE...
IT'S REALLY HERS...
MAYBE IT WILL BRING SOME LUCK.
WE STILL CAN'T BE SURE.
YEAH! SHE COULD'VE STOLEN IT FROM THE REAL NORIKO!
NOT VERY TRUSTING, ARE THEY?
THE NERVE!
BSTT BSTT
BSTT BSTT
CLAP CLAP
YES?
SHH!
DRAW A BATH FOR THE GIRL.

WE'LL KNOW FOR SURE...ONCE YOU'VE BATHED.
WHY DON'T YOU REST UNTIL THEN?

UHH... OH...


CHIRR-REEK CHIRREEK CHIRREEK


NORIKO HAD A BIRTHMARK ON HER BACK!
ONE THAT ONLY APPEARED WHEN HER SKIN WAS HEATED!
PSST PSST
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS BEFORE ?!?

WE COULD'VE GOTTEN A TATTOO !
A TATTOO ?!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY !!

WE'VE COME THIS FAR!
WHICH IS TOO FAR ALREADY !!

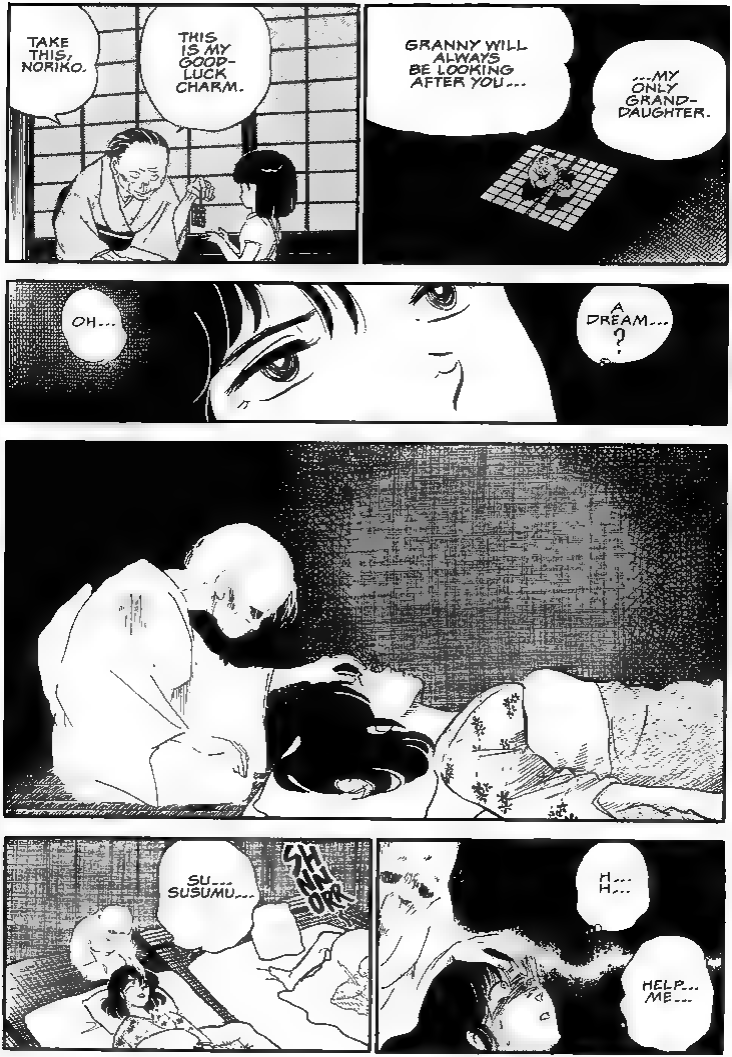
SH...
YOUR BATH IS READY.
NOTHING TO FEAR... NORIKO.
MR. YOKOSHIMA, DO YOU ADVISE ME TO...?
CHIRRRR
BUZZ...
IF I CAN HEAT MY SKIN RED ENOUGH...
...THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
COME OUT NOW.
SO SOON...??
THE BIRTHMARK WILL BE PROOF THAT YOU ARE A WOMAN OF THIS HOUSE.
NOW, LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
CHIRRRR
CHIRRRR
.....
....

.....
...
FLAP
FLAP
?
MISS NORIKO !
.....
...
.....
?
A BIRTH-MARK...
?!

CH CH CH CH....
.....
BNNNN BNN
IT LOOKED REAL.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO.
FWAP FWAP
BWOK
COMING NOW...AFTER TWENTY YEARS...
BUT IT IS HER.
TNK
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
WE'LL HAVE TO SEND HER TO JOIN GRANDMOTHER.
YES, THAT'S HOW IT HAS TO BE...
FWAP FWAP FWP
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!
YOU PULLED IT OFF, DIDN'T YOU ?!?
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.
BUT WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN A RED CENT!
DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO DEBTOR'S HELL?!
I JUST... I JUST CAN'T STAY IN THIS PLACE ANY LONGER !!

SHHH...
MISS NORIKO. DINNER IS SERVED.
I'M SORRY, I...
THANKS. WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
TAKES A HELL OF A LOTTA GALL.
YOU DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE FOR TWENTY YEARS...
...THEN SUDDENLY, WHEN THERE'S MONEY TO BE TAKEN...
NOW, DEAR...
YOU HAVE THE BLOOD OF A TRAMP IN YOU, AFTER ALL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOUR MOTHER ELOPED WITH SOME GUY.
THE FAMILY PRACTI-CALLY DIS-OWNED HER.
SHE ONLY CAME BACK ONCE. TWENTY YEARS AGO. WITH YOU.
YES. MY MOTHER TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT.
SHE DIDN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH... NASTY RELATIVES.

WHAT DID YOU SAY--- ?!
DEAR!
FUNK
LET'S GO, MR. YOKOSHIMA.
NOW I'M MAD...
TM TM TM
I WON'T GIVE THOSE CRETINS A PENNY!
I'LL TAKE IT ALL!
NORIKO COME HERE, DARLING
DON'T BE AFRAID.
IT'S YOUR GRAND-MOTHER.
IT IS GOOD... THAT YOU HAVE COME HERE.
MOTHER... I..
I'M MOVING AWAY.
I CAN'T BE HERE ANY MORE.
I SEE...


TAKE THIS, NORIKO.
THIS IS MY GOOD-LUCK CHARM.
GRANNY WILL ALWAYS BE LOOKING AFTER YOU...
...MY ONLY GRAND-DAUGHTER.
OH...
A DREAM...?
SU... SUSUMU...
SHI-IN-OR
H... H...
HELP... ME...

BELIEVE ME... I LOVED NORIKO...
...JUST AS YOU DID... GRAND-MOTHER.
YOU WANT HER PRO-PERLY BURIED...
...AND SO DO I.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY...
...SO WHEN I RECEIVE THE INHERITANCE, THE FIRST THING I'LL DO...
...I PRO-MISE...
TINK
CHRRRRR
THE REGISTRY FOR THE PROPERTY IS IN THE STORE-HOUSE...?
REE REE REE REE
YEAH, EVERY-THING SHE HAD WHILE SHE WAS ALIVE...
...IS IN HERE.

SHE'S BEEN DEAD THREE YEARS...
...BUT SHE WROTE IN HER WILL THAT NOBODY BUT NORIKO CAN TOUCH ANYTHING.
KR EEK
KR EEK
SOUNDS LIKE GRANNY DIDN'T LIKE THIS FAMILY ANY MORE THAN NORIKO'S MOM DID.
NO SUR-PRISE.
THE PAPERS ARE IN HERE.
SO GO AHEAD AND PAW THROUGH THEM.
"PAW" ?!
WHAT ARE WE, ANI-MALS ?!?
MAY I ADVISE MY CLIENT TO REMAIN CALM?
KR EEK
BUT WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG !
OH, OF COURSE NOT...
REEEEEEEEE
.....
.....
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO READ THAT?
I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

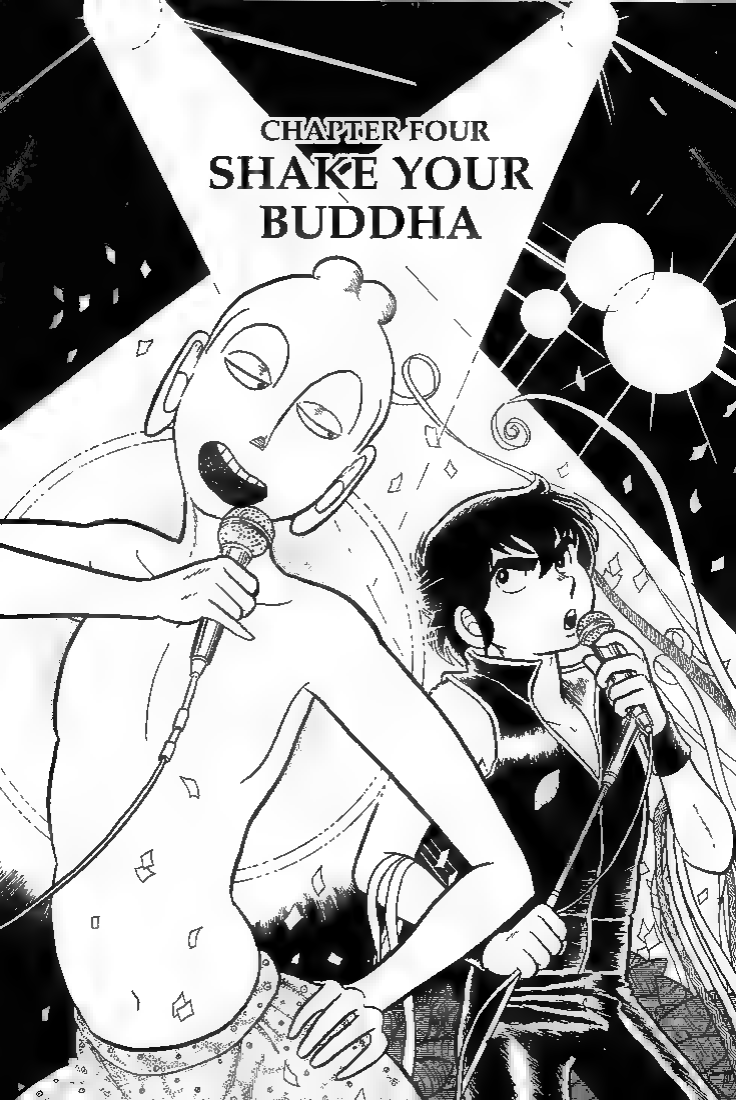
THERE ARE NO VALUABLE PAPERS HERE!
JUST OLD CHECK-BOOKS AND BILLS!
WHAT ?!?
IT CAN'T BE...
THIS WHOLE PLACE IS JUST...
BUSK
BRP
...FULL OF OLD JUNK!
HM ?
GLINT
HMM. PRETTY FANCY LOOKING.
ARRGH!!
BAM
THEY TOOK THE PAPERS !
THEY MADE FOOLS OUT OF US!
KK KK POP POP KK
HUH?
FIRE!
SHSHK
POP POP
WHA-WHA-WHA...
THEY WANT US DEAD !!
SHSHK POP

IT'S NO GOOD! THE DOOR IS ON FIRE !!
HS ST
POP POP
NO BACK DOOR!
IDIOT! BREAK DOWN THE WALL!
BOOM
BOOM BOOM
HAK HAK HAK
S-S-SMOKE... TOO THICK...
HHROOOOOOOM
TKK TKK TKK TKK
.....
IT'S NO USE...
SUSUMU... ??
IF WE'RE REINCARNATED...
...LET'S LIVE A SIMPLE LIFE.
YEAH.
YEEOW! IT'S HOT!!
I WON'T DIE !!
POP POP POP POP
BOOM
STUPID WALL! STUPID WALL!
TOOM

YAAAAH!
WHISH
KAAA
BOOOM

TM TM TM TM
WH--
WHAT... ??
TM TM TM
WE ESCAPED.
THERE WAS A HOLE IN THE FLOOR.
OH...
DID YOU... DID YOU SEE HER?
THE GRAND-MOTHER...
YES! IT WAS HOR-RIBLE !!
GRAND-MA...
PWEEE...
TM TM TM
I THOUGHT SHE WAS PULLING US DOWN TO HELL.
PWEEEEEEEEE...
CHUKA CHUKA CHUKA
WHAT A WASTE...
HEH HEHH HEH HEHH.

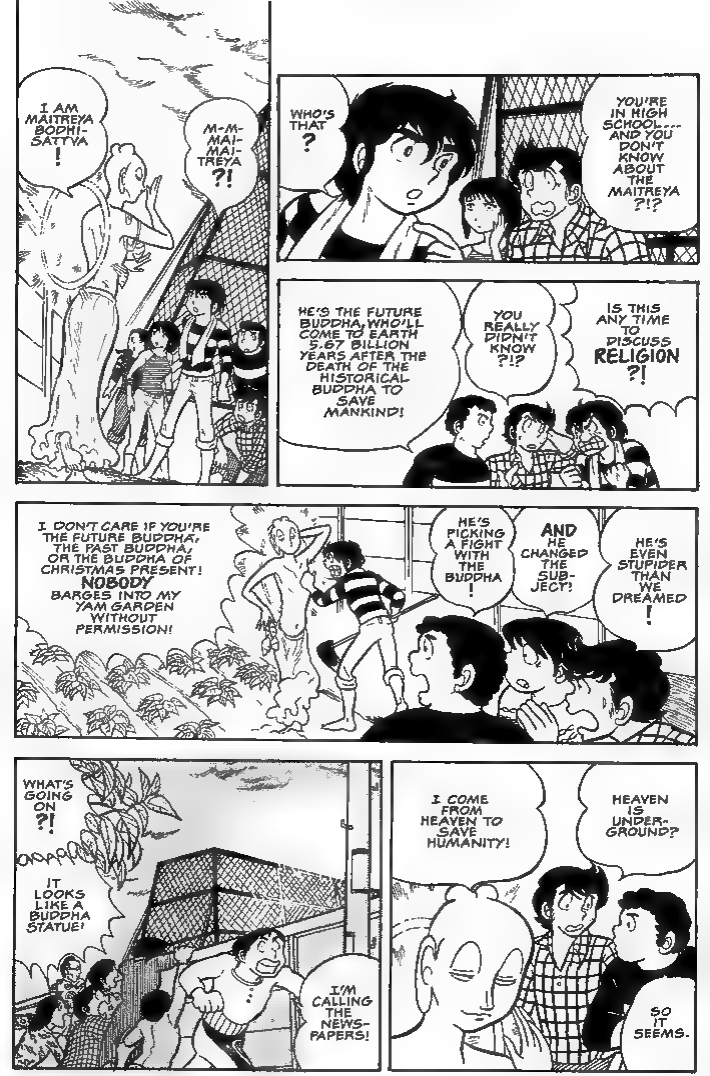
NOT ENTIRELY!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S JADE! WORTH MAYBE...500 THOUSAND YEN?
500 THOUSAND?!!
WE'RE SAVED!!
.....
.....
KA-KLAK
KA-KLAK
KA-KLAK
BUT I...
I MADE A PROMISE...
I TOLD GRANDMA I'D GIVE NORIKO A PROPER BURIAL.
A BURIAL?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT??
WHAT CAN THE OLD GHOST DO ABOUT IT, SITTING UP THERE?
.....
.....
OF COURSE... IT WOULD BE THE RIGHT THING TO DO...
YES.
KA-KLAK
KA-KLAK
KA-KLAK


CHAPTER FOUR
SHAKE YOUR BUDDHA

THIS IS NO TIME TO SHIRK YOUR RESPONSI-BILITIES, MY FRIENDS!
JAPAN TURNS ITS HOPEFUL EYES TO OUR GENERA-TION!
WE BEAR THE FUTURE IN OUR HANDS! LET'S BEAR IT WITH PRIDE!!
THERE'S ONLY ONE SHIRKER HERE, GORO--AND IT AIN'T US.
CAN'T YOU EVEN DIG A FREAKIN' YAM WITHOUT TURNIN' IT INTO PUBLIC ADDRESS?!
WE'RE JUST THE GARDEN-ING CLUB!

HOW... SHAMEFUL... TO FEEL SO LITTLE ZEAL AS WE GRAPPLE WITH A NATIONAL FOOD SHORTAGE!
GRAPPLE WITH THIS, GOKO!
I CAN'T GET THIS STUPID YAM OUT!
FEH! NOW DO YOU SEE THE COST OF HAVING NO PASSION?!?
YOU DO IT, THEN!
NKH!!
UNN HH!!
MAYBE YOU CAN TALK IT OUT.
THE ROOTS MUST BE TANGLED IN SOMETHING!
FOOEY!
THEY'RE PRETTY DEEP, TOO.
OKAY... PULL ON THE COUNT OF THREE!
THIS IS SO STUPID...
ONE... TWO...
THREE!
POOK
POOK

MY EYES...
HEE HEEEE HEE HEEE...
HOO HOOOOO HOOO HOOOOO HOOO!
I'D FORGOTTEN THAT AIR COULD TASTE SO GOOD!
YEEEE!
WH-WH-WHO ARE YOU?!


I AM MAITREYA BODHI-SATTVA!
M-M-MAI-MAI-TREYA?!
WHO'S THAT?
YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL... AND YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE MAITREYA?!?
HE'S THE FUTURE BUDDHA, WHO'LL COME TO EARTH 5.67 BILLION YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF THE HISTORICAL BUDDHA TO SAVE MANKIND!
YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW?!?
IS THIS ANY TIME TO DISCUSS RELIGION?!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE FUTURE BUDDHA, THE PAST BUDDHA, OR THE BUDDHA OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT! NOBODY BARGES INTO MY YAM GARDEN WITHOUT PERMISSION!
HE'S PICKING A FIGHT WITH THE BUDDHA!
AND HE CHANGED THE SUB-JECT!
HE'S EVEN STUPIDER THAN WE DREAMED!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
IT LOOKS LIKE A BUDDHA STATUE!
I'M CALLING THE NEWS-PAPERS!
I COME FROM HEAVEN TO SAVE HUMANITY!
HEAVEN IS UNDER-GROUND?
SO IT SEEMS.

HEED MY TEACHINGS!
THEN YOU WILL BE SAVED!
OH, YEAH, LIKE MAKING SPEECHES IS GONNA FILL ANYBODY'S STOMACH!
GOKO! IX-NAY ON THE IGHT-FAY! WHAT IF THE BUDDHA DECIDES TO PUNISH YOU!?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "PUNISH ME"? HOW?
LET'S BUY THIS BOY A BRAIN!

POOR CHILD OF IGNORANCE! OPEN YOUR SPIRIT!
WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT SPIRITS?!
WE'VE GOT A FAMINE HERE!!

WE'RE FROM THE PRESS! COMIN' THROUGH!
DON'T PUSH!
I CAN'T SEE!

IT IS A BUDDHA STATUE!
HE'S NOT A BUDDHA STATUE - HE'S THE REAL THING!
AMAZING! YOU CULTIVATED A YAM SHAPED LIKE A BUDDHA!

WE DIDN'T CULTIVATE HIM! HE JUST POPPED OUT OF THE GROUND!
AH, AN ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY OF A NEW VARIETY! IS IT EDIBLE?
JUST WHEN YOU THINK THINGS CAN'T GET ANY STUPIDER..

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS WORLD?
SMILE!
WHAT WERE YOU ARGUING ABOUT?
OVER HERE, MAITREYA!
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?
TO TEACH.
GARBAGE!
YOUR OPINIONS SEEM TO CLASH WITH THE MAITREYA'S. ELABORATE!
RELIGION IS DEAD! OUR GENERATION'S DUTY IS TO GROW FOOD FOR A HUNGRY FUTURE!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S DEAD! WITHOUT SPIRITUALITY THE WORLD WILL END!
WITH IDIOTS LIKE YOU WANDERING AROUND, THE WORLD WILL STARVE!
NOW, NOW, BOYS, LET'S NOT GET ALL WORKED UP--YET!
WHY NOT HOLD THIS ARGUMENT IN THE PUBLIC EYE?
MY CARD, SIRS!
HUH? A TALK-SHOW PRODUCER?
WOW! YOU'RE GONNA BE ON TV?!
OF ALL THE IDIOTS...

LET 'EM HEAR IT!!
OUR GUESTS TODAY ARE DAISUKE GOKO AND THE MAITREYA OF THE FUTURE! AND THEIR TOPIC IS "THE SALVATION OF MANKIND-- YAM OR OM?"
COME ON, MR. BUDDHA, START US OFF!
I WILL BE PROFOUNDLY HAPPY TO!
AS THE SAGE MU SHU WROTE IN THE DIM SUM SUTRA, "HIGHER THAN THE WON TON MOUNTAIN IS..."
?!
AMEN, BUDDHA!
WE'RE WITH YOU!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S HEAR FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL--
HEY! I'M NOT FINISHED YET!
YOU'RE TOO ATTACHED TO MATERIALITY!
YOU'RE TOO ATTACHED TO MY NECK!
EMPTY RITUALS AND OTHERWORLDLY FANTASIES ONLY HASTEN THE DOOM WE FEAR!
MPHH MPHH
LOOKING TO HEAVEN ONLY DECREASES SELF-RELIANCE AND ROBS US OF OUR VOLITION!
HE'S ACTUALLY MAKING SENSE!
HE MUSTA SPENT ALL NIGHT THINKIN'!
WE MUST RELY ON OUR OWN STRENGTH!
YAM GARDENS ARE OUR FORTRESSES!!
SILENCE, YOU BLASPHEMER!
HELL AWAITS YOU!
THE WORLD IS DOOMED WITHOUT FAITH!!
SO SAY THE MAITREYA FANS!
THE WORLD IS DOOMED WITHOUT FOOD!!
MANKIND MUST ACT, FOOLS!
AND SO SAY THE YAM FANS!

ARE YOU BUDDHIST OR YAM-IST? WE ASKED 100 READERS!
"Even I get confused sometimes on religious holidays. I'll be like, 'Is it Christmas or Buddha's birthday?'"
"I like chanting because it makes me feel... I don't know..."
"Can't I have both? And what about Kwanzaa?"

DO YOU THINK PRICES HAVE GONE UP AGAIN RECENTLY?
WE'RE BARELY GETTING BY!

SAY, WHAT'S THAT?
BREAD

MAN CANNOT LIVE BY YAMS ALONE!
IN PERSON! THE MAITREYA BUDDHA!
I HEARD HE WAS TAKING TO THE STREETS!

HEY, BUDDY, CAN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING FUNNY?!?
POK
AS IT HAPPENS, I CAN!

THESE TWO BUDDHAS WALK INTO A BAR, SEE?
FAP
SO SAKYA-MUNI SAYS...

"...GIMME A KAMI-KAZE!"
AND THEN AMIDA SAYS...
OUTTA THE WAY!!
YAMS FIRST!!
GARA GARA GARA
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... WELCOME TO YAM AID!!
YAMS FIRST!!
OOH! YAMS!!
ON SALE CHEAP!
YAMS FIRST!!
ALL PROCEEDS FIGHT HUNGER!!
LEMME AT 'EM!
HEY! I'M SERMONIZING HERE!
GOKI
OUTTA THE WAY!!

YEESH. I'VE HEARD OF EPOCHS OF IGNORANCE...
...BUT THIS...
YAMS FIRST DOG
IT'S ALL IN THE PACKAGING, BABY!
YOU CAN'T TRADE ON NAME RECOGNITION FOREVER!
VIZZZZZZ
WH-WHO THE---?
MY CARD, PAL!
A TALENT AGENT...?!
YOU GOTTA EXPAND YOUR FAN BASE! THINK TV, BUDDHA-BABY!
YOO-HOO! DAI-SUKE!
AND WHO ARE THEY?
ONE TV APPEARANCE AND HE'S ALREADY GOT A FAN CLUB!

EXCUSE ME! ARE YOU THE DAISUKE GOKO ?!
YEAH!
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE MAITREYA BUDDHA HAS TURNED TO THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE?
HOW LOW CAN YOU STOOP ?!?
THAT LITTLE...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BEAT HIM IF...
NOT UNLESS YOU GO HEAD TO HEAD WITH HIM! SAY, THROUGH A RIVAL AGENCY...
SIGN A TWO-YEAR CONTRACT WITH ME AND WE'LL KICK SOME BUDDHA BUTT!
OH, DAISUKE! YOU'RE GOING TO BE A TV STAR ?!?
YOU'RE AN EASY SELL! TALL ENOUGH, NOT BAD-LOOKING...
32"
YOU REALLY THINK SO...?
OKAY, I'LL DO IT!!
ANY SACRIFICE-- TO SAVE MANKIND !!

YOU'RE SURE THIS WILL WIN ME THE TEEN-AGERS ?
WORK THE EYES! REMEM-BER, YOU'RE SEXY!
Entertainment WEEKLY
ROOT'S NOT RITES
People
BUDDHA SLAMS THE YAM
HE SINGS! HE DANCES! HE BRINGS ENLIGHTEN-MENT! HE'S THE BUDDHA !!
GOKO AND THE YAMM-ETTES
TOP of the POPS
DAISUKE GOKO
MAITREYA BUDDHA
EEEE EEE!
I TOUCHED HIM! I TOUCHED HIM !
DANCE, BUDDHA! SHAKE IT!
LEMME THROUGH! I GOT A SHOW TO DO!
HURRY !!

MY ONLY DESIRE IS TO LEAD YOU INTO YAM-HOOD!
I'LL TELL YOU ANY-THING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YAMS!
SAY "I AM A FAN OF THE YAM!"
D'YOU LIKE SHORT HAIR?
HOW MANY KIDS DO YOU WANT?
YOU EVER KISS A GIRL?
ABOUT YAMS! YAMS!
WHAT... MUST I DO...?!
ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT GOING UP AGAINST DAISUKE GOKO FOR THE MOST POPULAR NEW ENTERTAINER AWARD?
AS TSING TAO WROTE...
STOP HIM! HE'S PREACH-ING AGAIN!
...THE CHOW MEIN PATH...
RATINGS ARE DROPPING BY THE SECOND!
HE JUST DOESN'T GET THE DEMO-GRAPHICS!
WHAT A WASTE! HE COULDA BEEN SO HOT IF HE JUST KNEW WHAT REALLY COUNTS...

DID YOU HEAR? DAISUKE AND THE MAITREYA BUDDHA ARE STARTING A TEAM ACT!
APOCA-LYPSES MAKE STRANGE BED-FELLOWS.
HAR-BINGERS OF THE APOCA-LYPSE! TEN MINUTES!
OKAY!
HEH HEH HEHHH... THE FOOL WILL MAKE ME IRRESIS-TIBLE TO HIS "GEN X"...
HE'S GOING TO LEAD HIS OLD FOGEYS RIGHT INTO MY HANDS...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE'RE THE HARBINGERS OF THE APOCALYPSE! TOGETHER, WE'RE GOING TO SAVE THE WORLD...
...AND TEACH IT TO BOOGIE DOWN!
I THINK WE JUST LOST OUR LAST VIEWER...
PULL THE PLUG AND GET ME SOME STAND-UP COMEDY!

CHAPTER FIVE

THE GRANDFATHER OF ALL BASEBALL GAMES

THOOP
STEEEE-RIKE! YOU'RE OUT!
RENTAL
WE WON! WE WON!!
WE'RE A WHOLE NEW TEAM WITH TET-CHAN ON THE MOUND!
JUST LIKE WHEN HE LED HIS HIGH SCHOOL TEAM TO THE FINALS!
AW, HECK! WE LOST OUR FIRST GAME!
PSHH
DON'T BE SO MODEST!
KITAMIYA
KITA
YA

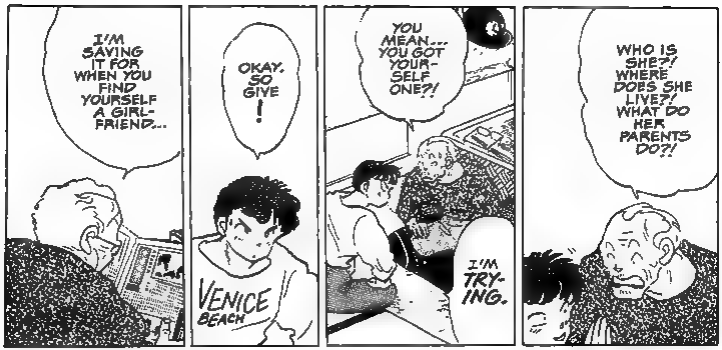
HUH ?
HERE YOU GO, OLD MAN. TET-CHAN'S FEE.
THANKS.
ANYTIME YOU NEED HIM... JUST COME TO ME.
HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, POCKETING THE MONEY I EARNED?!
NGH! GUH!
I'M JUST SAYIN' IT...
...SO YOU DON'T SPEND IT ALL IN ONE PLACE, BOY!
GIMME THAT!
RRIP
B-B-BUT THAT'S...
HUH ?!?
URG.
(WIN)NING HOMER
MY Grandson
KAWA-KAMI'S ONE BAD PITCH ENDS TIGERS' HOPES

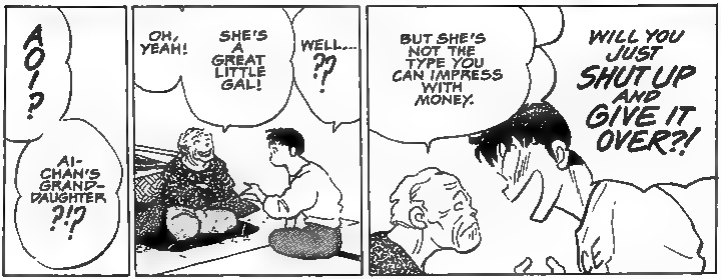
WHY ARE YOU CARRYING THIS AROUND...?!
'CAUSE IT'S THE ONLY SOUVENIR I'VE GOT FROM THE FINALS!
FWIP
REN
YOU'RE REALLY PROUD OF HIM, AREN'T YOU?
WELL... I CAN SELL HIM FOR A LOT MORE MONEY IF I CAN PROVE HE MADE THE FINALS!
HA HA HA HAAA!
KITA MI MIYA
GEN-CHAN!
GEN-CHAN, HURRY!
AI-CHAN!!
REN TAN
HOW ABOUT A FRENCH RES-TAURANT TODAY?
YOU'RE SUCH A SWEET-HEART.
A GIRL-FRIEND, EH?
ACT YOUR AGE, OLD MAN...
AAR RGH!
I FORGOT TO GET MY MONEY AGAIN...!!

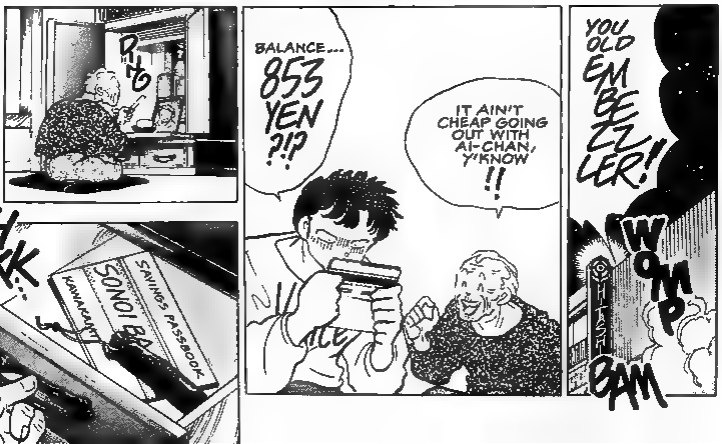
SURE.
I HELP WITH THE FAMILY BUSINESS...
TETSU, COULD YOU TAKE THIS, TOO?
MY GRANDPA'S HOBBY IS SANDLOT BASEBALL.
HE PLAYED UP UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO.
KAWAKAMI ELECTRONICS
...AND I HELP VARIOUS TEAMS.
UNDER HIS "MANAGEMENT," OF COURSE.
VROOOOM
I DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND...
TAK TAK
HM?
UH...
I'M AI. HIS GIRL-FRIEND.
WILL YOU TREAT ME TO TEA?
YOU'RE GEN-CHAN'S GRAND-SON!
TAK
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOTTA...

GRAND-MA!
YOU CAN'T JUST RUN UP TO MEN AND EXPECT THEM TO...
FORGIVE MY GRAND-MOTHER.
SHE'S SO USED TO YOUR GRANDFATHER SPOILING HER...
SHE'S... CUTE!!
MY GRAND-DAUGHTER'S NAME IS AOI.
COULD I... TREAT YOU TO TEA...?
I...UH... ER... ACTUALLY, I MEANT...
TEE HEE! DO YOU S'POSE PEOPLE WILL THINK WE'RE DATING...?!

OH, NO THANKS!
I'M NOT A SPONGER LIKE MY GRANDMA!
YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER IS VERY... MODEST.
REALLY? I ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE WAS A LOUD-MOUTH!
TET-CHAN, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER OUT SOMETIME?
WHAT?!
YOU MEAN SHE'S...
STILL UN-ATTACHED.
BUT DOESN'T DATING THESE DAYS COST A LOT OF MONEY?
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE MUCH.
WHAT I'VE EARNED FROM SANDLOT BASE-BALL...
...OUGHT TO BE AT LEAST A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN BY NOW...
MONEY?!?
HI-FASHI
ALL THOSE PLAYER-RENTAL FEES...!!
YOU'VE BEEN SAVING THEM FOR ME!
YOU'LL ONLY WASTE IT ALL.
VENICE BEACH

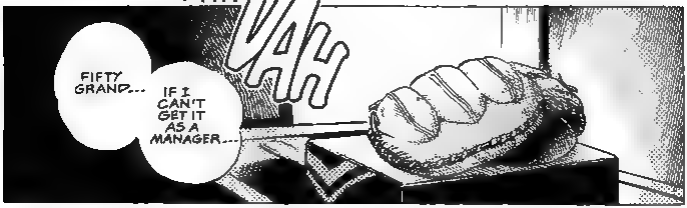

I'M SAVING IT FOR WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF A GIRL-FRIEND...
OKAY. SO GIVE !
VENICE BEACH
YOU MEAN... YOU GOT YOUR-SELF ONE?!
I'M TRY-ING.
WHO IS SHE?! WHERE DOES SHE LIVE?! WHAT DO HER PARENTS DO?!


AO!?
AI-CHAN'S GRAND-DAUGHTER ?!?
OH, YEAH!
SHE'S A GREAT LITTLE GAL!
WELL... ??
BUT SHE'S NOT THE TYPE YOU CAN IMPRESS WITH MONEY.
WILL YOU JUST SHUT UP AND GIVE IT OVER?!


RIG
BALANCE... 853 YEN ?!?
IT AIN'T CHEAP GOING OUT WITH AI-CHAN, Y'KNOW !!
YOU OLD EMBEZZLER!
WHAM
BAM
SHKK...
SAVINGS PASSBOOK
KAWAKAMI
SONOI BA

OH. I SEE.
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF WHAT I SAID TO YOUR GRANDSON.
WHAT-EVER.
THEN I SUPPOSE WE CAN'T TAKE THAT TRIP TO THE HOT SPRINGS NOW.
HOT SPRINGS ??
THAT'S RIGHT! I PROMISED TO TAKE HER!
BUT THEN...
...A DAY IN THE PARK TOGETHER EATING HOT BEAN CAKES IS FUN TOO.
AUGHH
DOES SHE HAVE TO BE SO... CUTE ?!
I'VE GOTTA TAKE HER TO THOSE HOT SPRINGS !
C'MON, TETSU !
JUST TWO OR THREE GAMES !
AKAMI LECTRONICS
NO !!
IT'S... IT'S MY LAST RE-QUEST.
AND THIS IS MY LAST REPU-SAL!
HI THERE, GEN !
HEY! FROM THE OH-OKA LIONS, RIGHT...?

SO YOU WANT TETSU TO PITCH, EH?!
14-IN. COLOR
SALE
HE'S ALL YOURS.
HEY!
I'M NOT PLAY-ING.
OH...
THAT'S TOO BAD. WE WERE COUNTING ON YOU...
IT'S FOR THE MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION SPRING FESTIVAL...
WE'RE PAYING FIFTY THOUSAND YEN...
...TO EACH MEMBER OF THE WINNING TEAM.
WE'LL KICK THEIR BUTTS.
THEN... YOU'LL DO IT?
YVIPP
TETSU... YOU'LL DO THIS FOR ME...?
SIIGH
IN YOUR DREAMS.
HMM MM.
WELL...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED THEN...


TA-DAH
FIFTY GRAND...
IF I CAN'T GET IT AS A MANAGER...

AND SO, ON THE DAY OF THE SPRING FESTIVAL...
OH, NO... IT CAN'T BE...
GASP GASP
ALL-RIGH-TEE!
IT'S ALL COMING BACK!
FWOP
COME ON, BOYS, WARM IT UP!
NOT OLD GEN... AGAIN!?!

THAT'S BAD.
THAT'S VERY BAD.
YOU HAD TO SIGN UP FOR THE OTHER TEAM, OF COURSE...
DENTAL

GEN-CHAN, YOU LOOK GREAT!
.....
....
OH, AOI.
HERE'S MY CHANCE...
I'LL SHOW HER SOME REAL PITCHING...
VITAL
I'LL SHOW HER A CHAMP-ION!!
STEEE-RIKE! YOU'RE OUT!!
THH
OP
G G G!
KRAK

TONK
BASES LOADED !
NOBODY OUT !!
TENTAI
HA HA HAAA! FIFTY THOUSAND, HERE I COME!
OH, WELL.
GUESS I'LL TRY THAT OLD TRICK...
YOU STILL SEEIN' THAT YUKIKO FROM THE BAR?
JURI!
HEH!
90
THOP
YOU'RE OUT !
WE SURE HAD SOME FUN IN ATAMI FIVE YEARS AGO, HUH?
SWISH
THOP
HE'S DOING IT AGAIN !
THE "EVIL WHISPER TACTIC" !!
HIS DIRTY LITTLE TRICKS...
...WON'T WORK ON ME.
GRIP
TENTAI

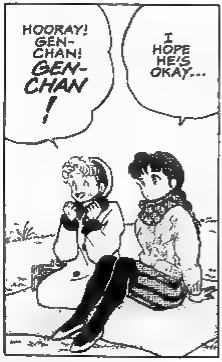
THE PORNO VIDEOS BEHIND THE BOOK-CASE...
URK!
THOP
YOU... CREEP.
HM-MPH.
VIPP
THAT LOVE LETTER YOU WROTE AT FOUR-TEEN...
KRAK
YOU WON'T BEAT ME!!
TMP
HOME RUN!!
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE US RICH, TET!
AOI, DID YOU SEE...??
WHO ARE YOU LOOKING...?
KUH?!
GRAND-PA...!?!
TIME OUT.

SHF SHF
UM...
YEAH ?
ISN'T IT WRONG...
...TO LET YOUR GRAND-FATHER PLAY BASE-BALL?!
I MEAN, WITH HIS HEART AND ALL?
WHA--??
D-D-DON'T TELL... AI-CHAN...
I DON'T WANT HER... TO WORRY.
WHEEZE WHEEZE
OH MY.
YOU HAD TEA WITH HIM...?!?
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
THAT OLD GOAT'S GOT A HEART OF STEEL!
POF
OH MY! TET-CHAN'S PITCHES ARE REALLY STARTING TO FLY!
LOOK AT HIM. DOESN'T GIVE A FIG.
HEART-LESS, UNGRATE-FUL GRAND-CHILD...
GRR RRR

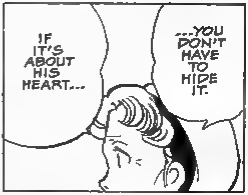
STEEE-RIKE THREE!
REP-TILE.
WHY, YOU...
IS FIFTY THOUSAND YEN WORTH MORE THAN YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S LIFE?!
FIFTY YEN IS WORTH MORE!!
LENTAL
593
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA USE IT FOR--?!?
TO TAKE AOI OUT, YOU SENILE OLD CLOWN!!
WELL, AOI...
...DOESN'T WANT TO BE TAKEN OUT WITH YOUR BLOOD MONEY!

YOUR GRANDFATHER NEEDS SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
TOO BAD HE'S GOT YOU.
SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
RENTAL
NOW... DIE!!
BALL ONE!
KRAK
KRAK
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
SORRY.
I'M BLOWING IT.
BECAUSE OF HIM.
FINALLY.
BOTTOM OF THE NINTH, ONE OUT, BASES LOADED...
ONE HIT AND WE WIN!
GO! GO! GO!

AND ONE MORE TRIP TO THE HOT SPRINGS.
GO! GO! GO!
NO WAY, CRETIN.
NO WAY I LOSE TO YOU!
GO! GO! GO!


HOORAY! GEN-CHAN! GEN-CHAN!
I HOPE HE'S OKAY...

WHAT?
DON'T TELL... AI-CHAN...
OH... NOTHING.


IF IT'S ABOUT HIS HEART...
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT.

WHAT...?? YOU MEAN YOU KNEW?

RENTAL
DIE !!
FEH. I WON'T GO THAT EASY.
UH ?!
WHAT THE---
GRAND-PA...!?!

BUNT
SUCK-ERR-RRR!
RASSH!
TMP TMP
THE LEGENDARY "HEART-ATTACK TACTIC" !!
HE COOKED IT UP IN HIS LAST YEAR OF PLAYING.
ARR-RRH...
HA HA HAAAAH! FOOLED YOU!
I'LL GET YOU MY-SELF... !!
RUN IT! RUN IT!
THROW IT HOME! THROW IT HOME !!
GO! GO! GO!
NOW I'M REALLY MAD !!
SKWRCH

THERE'S FUNNY... AND THEN THERE'S JUST PLAIN SICK...
HEE-HAW!
WHISH
UNHH!
SHUMP!
HUH?
GEN...?
GEEZ... IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S OUT COLD!
SOME-BODY CALL THE MORGUE!
YOU MEAN AN AMBULANCE, YOU IDIOT!
HEY, HE NEVER GOT TO FIRST BASE! HE'S OUT!
NICE TRY, BUT WE GOT THREE GUYS ACROSS THE PLATE!
GAME'S OVER!!
I LOST THE GAME...
BUT THAT LOSS WOULD MEAN NOTHING... ...COM-PARED TO LOSING HIM.
GRAND-PA...

FOOEY.
PRIZE
I WIN FIFTY THOUSAND YEN...
...AND I CAN'T EVEN GO ON A TRIP!
WELL, AT LEAST YOU ONLY THREW YOUR BACK OUT.
OH, WELL.
HERE, TETSU.
TAKE AOI OUT WITH THIS.
WHAT'S THE CATCH?
YOU'RE DYING, BUT YOU WON'T GIVE ME THE SATISFACTION, RIGHT...??
SHUT UP, IDIOT! JUST DO ME ONE FAVOR...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE THINK-ING THIS...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
IT'S SO SWEET OF YOU TO ENTERTAIN ME UNTIL GEN-CHAN GETS BETTER!
GRANDMA... DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK!
...BUT I SURE HOPE GRANDPA GETS BETTER SOON.

CHAPTER SIX
RESERVED SEAT

CHAPTER SIX

RESERVED SEAT

JUNE, 1997.
POK POK POK POK
SAKURA FUNERA
IT'S ALMOST TOO FITTING...
...COLLAPSING ON THE WAY TO SEE A TAKARA-ZUKA CONCERT.
SHE WOULD HAVE WANTED IT THAT WAY...
I HEAR SHE EVEN APPLIED TO A TAKARAZUKA MUSIC SCHOOL ONCE!
SHE DID LOVE THOSE SHOWS SO.
WHERE'S OUR GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SON?!
FIRST HE SKIPS THE WAKE, AND NOW THIS!
I CALLED THOSE FRIENDS OF HIS, BUT THEY--
GASP
MASA-HIKO ?!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?! I GOT A GIG TO MAKE!
HOW HE'S... GROWN.
IS THAT MASA-HIKO...?
IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW...
YOU'RE DRESSED FOR A ROCK CON-CERT?!
THIS IS YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S FUNERAL!!
I KNOW. THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE...

...TO UNLOAD ALL THIS TAKARAZUKA JUNK SHE KEPT GIVING ME!
FWAP
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE OLD FOOL... AT HER AGE...
OOOOO! TAKARAZUKA POSTERS!
WHEEE!
YOU'RE DOWNED!!
YEAH, YEAH. WHATEVER.
A "ROSE OF VERSAILLES" POSTER! FROM THE EIGHTIES!
THINK WE CAN TAKE SOME...?
OLD FOOL...
FWAP
...REST IN PEACE!

WE APOLOGIZE FOR OUR ROTTEN SON.
HE IS UN-WORTHY...
OH, HE'S NOT SO BAD!
BZZ BNN
SIGH
BT PST

HEY...
SORRY 'BOUT THAT. LET'S SPLIT.
SAKURA

DON'T DIS-HONOR THE DEAD, MAN.
I DUNNO 'BOUT JAMMIN' ON THE DAY OF THE FUNERAL...
MASA-HIKO, MAN, IF HER GHOST COMES HAUNTIN', I'LL LET YOU KNOW.
I'M TUNED IN TO THAT STUFF.
COME OFF IT!!

WE GOT A CONTEST TO GET READY FOR, REMEMBER ?
LET'S GET DOWN 'N' DIRTY !
I ADMIRE YOUR DEDICATION, MAN, I REALLY DO...
PLEASE WELCOME WILLOW !!
BOGEYMAN
I'M PSYCHED, BUT...
AHEM
HOTCH
SIGH
TWANG
WHAT IS IT WITH HIM... ??
THE STAGE PRESENCE OF A BROOM !!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS PROBLEM IS..
BUT HE'S GOTTA GET WITH THE PROGRAM !

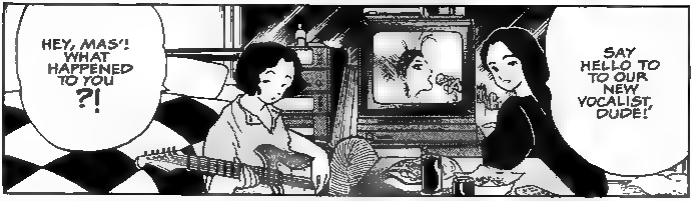
LOOK, IT'S TIME SOMEBODY SAID IT...
CLUBS
IF WE'RE GONNA HAVE A CHANCE IN HELL OF WINNIN' THAT CONTEST...
...IT'S NOT GONNA BE WITH MASAHIKO ON VOCALS!
HEY... WAIT!
WHO CAN GET INTO THE MUSIC WITH YOU PLAYIN', STICK-BOY?
THAT'S JUST THE WAY I AM, DUDE!
HEY, I GOT AN IDEA.
WE'RE RENTIN' THE STUDIO SATURDAY, RIGHT?
LET'S HAVE A SINGIN' DUEL TO SEE WHO GETS TO DO VOCALS!
OKAY BY ME.
HEH
MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE DRAWN STRAWS TO CHOOSE IN THE FIRST PLACE...
OH, YEAH...?

FINE, THEN!
JUST TRY TO BEAT ME!
IT'S SO WEIRD...
IF HE COULD ONLY PULL THAT ATTITUDE ON STAGE...
SATURDAY, AT THE STUDIO, FOUR O'CLOCK.
GOT IT.
I'M WRITIN' IT DOWN.
WHY... WHY...?
I WANNA GET DOWN 'N' DIRTY!
I WANNA WAIL. I WANT THEM ALL TO LOOK AT ME!
BUT EVERY TIME I TRY...
MASAHIKO, DO YOU WANT TO GO WITH GRANDMA...?
MASAHIKO...
WHAT...?
FELT LIKE... I WAS ABOUT TO REMEMBER SOMETHING...
BUT WHAT...?

POP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THAT WAS LOVELY...
UNTIL NEXT TIME, THEN...
?

B-BUMP
B-BUMP
B-BUMP
B-BUMP
B-BUMP
SIGH...
YADA YADA
HE SIT...
HUH ?!
YADA YADA
WH-WHERE AM I...?
THE STUDIO! THE VOCALS CONTEST!
IT MUST BE ALMOST...
NINE P.M. !?!
DINNNNG
DONNNNG
DINNNNG
DONNNNG

KREEEE
YEAH?
S-S-SORRY...
DIDN'T MAKE... THE STUDIO...
ZEEH ZEEH ZEEH
HOW
BRRRR!


HEY, MAS'! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
SAY HELLO TO TO OUR NEW VOCALIST, DUDE!

BEEP BEEP BEEP
H-H-HEY... GIMME A CHANCE...
YYHATCHA HIPIN' FROM, YUZUHARA?
SCARED OF BEIN' HOME ALONE?
HE'S NOT USED TO HIS MOMMY BEING OUT!

C'MON, AZUKI... OLD BUDDY!
JUST GIMME ONE CH--
BAM
GUESS AGAIN.
HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
WHERE YOU BEEN?
GNAG...
FAN ART
TOKYO TAKARAZUKA VIOLET CAKES
TAKARAZUKA BEAT
TAKARAZUKA SCENE
TAKARAZUKA FLOWER GROUP
THE DEADLY HEIR
MELANCHOLY GIGOLO
SOU-VENIR PRO-GRAMS?
OF THAT CRAP?!
I GET IT. IT'S A BABE.
YOU WERE WITH A BABE, RIGHT?
NO WAY!!
I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT THIS STUFF!

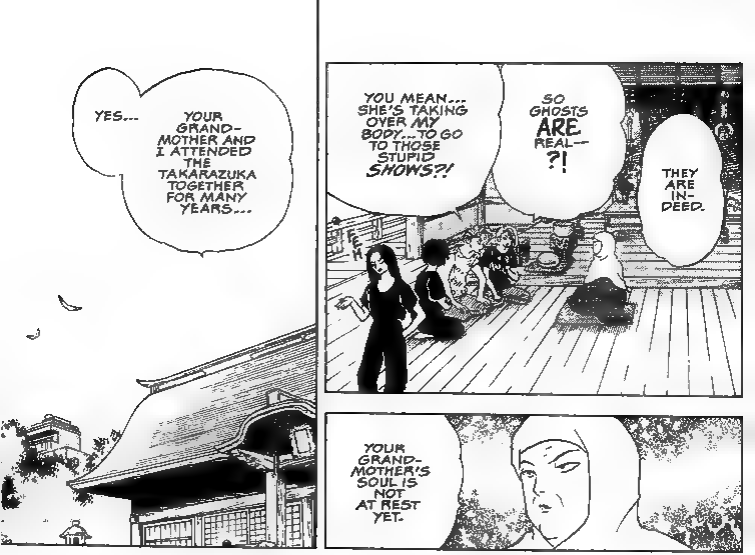
YOUR GRANDMA...
SHE WAS A BIG TAKARAZUKA FAN, WASN'T SHE...?
BRRR
Heaven
HEY, YUZ'! YOU CHANGE YOUR HAIR?
NO. IT'S JUST STANDING ON END.
Heaven
YOU SKIPPED HER FUNERAL.
I'LL BET SHE'S HAUNTING YOU.
TUGG
GET REAL!
C'MON, WHO WAS IT?
HEH HEH
HE KNEW HE WAS BEAT, SO HE HID.
WHAT HAPPENED...?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...?!
POOFF

IT WAS LOVELY, AS ALWAYS...
WHEN SHALL I SEE YOU AGAIN...?
CLAP CLAP CLAP
OH, OF COURSE. DURING BON ODORI...
WHEN WE HONOR OUR DEAD...
THE STUDIO
BDS
RINKY-DINK STUDIO
BDS
IS...
IS PRAC-TICE... OVER??
ZEEH ZEEH...
GLARE
AHA HA HA...
I DON'T RE-MEM-BER!!
YOU WENT THERE AGAIN?

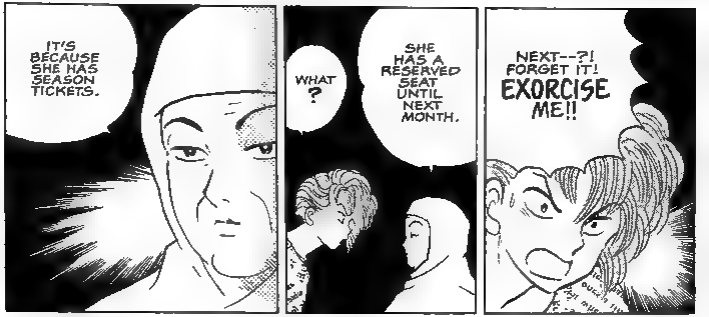
YOU SKIP OUT ON PRACTICES TO GO TO THAT TEENYBOPPER GARBAGE...
SIZZLE
DO YOU HATE PLAYING BEHIND ME THAT MUCH?!?
YEAH !!
ONLY... THAT'S NOT WHY I KEEP DISAPPEARING.
WHOOO
BEWARE! CELERY STALKS at MIDNIGHT!
ON TODAY'S "TRUE TERROR" !!
YOU TAPE DAYTIME TV... ??
LOSER.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GO HOME.
WAS I REALLY AT THAT SHOW...?
OR WAS IT A DREAM...?
THE SOUVENIRS ARE REAL...
AND THAT... NUN ??

ON TODAY'S "TOKYO WOMAN"...
TAKARAZUKA MUSICALS ARE MAKING A COMEBACK!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ATTRACTING FANS OF EVERY GENERATION!
LET'S HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY!
IS THIS YOUR GRAND-MOTHER?
OH, NOO-OOO!
WE'RE NEIGH-BORS!
I'VE BEEN A FAN FOR FIFTY YEARS!
I USED TO BRING MY GRAND-SON! TEE-HEEE!
YOU'RE SICKER THAN I THOUGHT!
THAT'S NOT ME!
THEN WHO IS IT?!
YOUR TWIN SISTER?!?

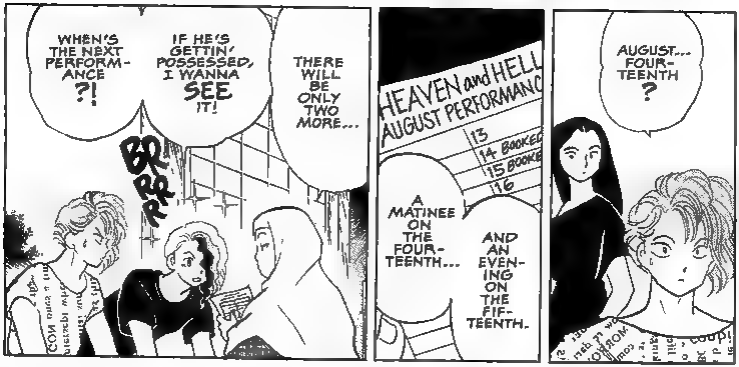
THE WAY I TALKED...
...THE THINGS I SAID...
IT WAS HER!
AND THAT NUN... SHE USED TO BE HER NEIGHBOR!
SHE MUST KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!
I'VE GOT TO FIND HER!
MAYBE MY MOM KNOWS WHERE...
MOM!!
VROOM
HONEY? YOU'RE HOME?
WHY AREN'T YOU AT SCHOOL?
WELL, HELLO THERE.
BOOM!


YES...
YOUR GRANDMOTHER AND I ATTENDED THE TAKARAZUKA TOGETHER FOR MANY YEARS...
YOU MEAN... SHE'S TAKING OVER MY BODY... TO GO TO THOSE STUPID SHOWS?!
SO GHOSTS ARE REAL—?!
THEY ARE INDEED.
YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S SOUL IS NOT AT REST YET.

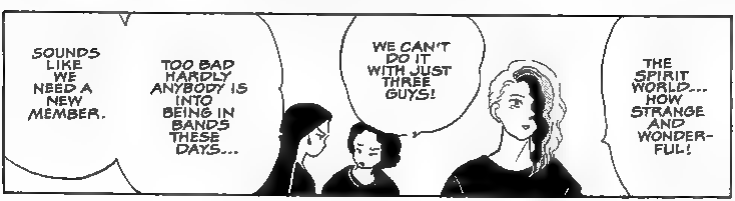
.....
I TOLD YOU, MAN! IT'S BECAUSE YOU SKIPPED HER FUNERAL!
ACTUALLY, NO.


IT'S BECAUSE SHE HAS SEASON TICKETS.
WHAT?
SHE HAS A RESERVED SEAT UNTIL NEXT MONTH.
NEXT--?! FORGET IT! EXORCISE ME!!

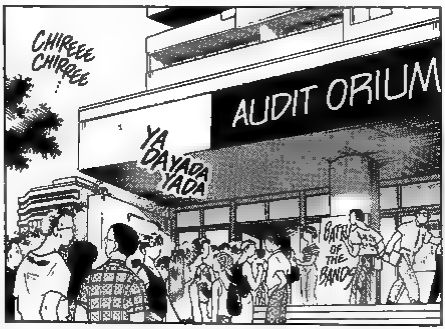
I CAN-NOT.
HER ATTACH-MENT TO THIS WORLD IS TOO STRONG.
BUT DO NOT WORRY, MY CHILD.
THE JULY SHOWS ARE OVER, SO YOU WILL BE FREE FOR A TIME.


WHEN'S THE NEXT PERFORM-ANCE ?!
IF HE'S GETTIN' POSSESSED, I WANNA SEE IT!
THERE WILL BE ONLY TWO MORE...
BRRR
HEAVEN and HELL AUGUST PERFORMANC
13
14 BOOKED
15 BOOKED
16
A MATINEE ON THE FOUR-TEENTH...
AND AN EVEN-ING ON THE FIF-TEENTH.
AUGUST... FOUR-TEENTH ?

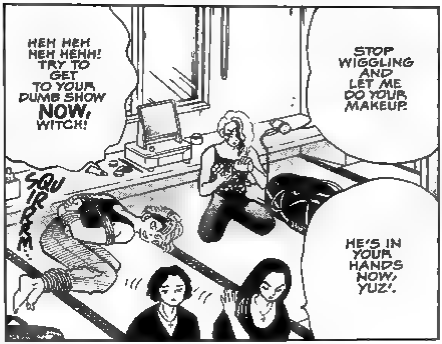
YOU CAN'T DO THAT !!
THE CONTEST IS THAT DAY!!
IT'S NO USE TELLING ME...

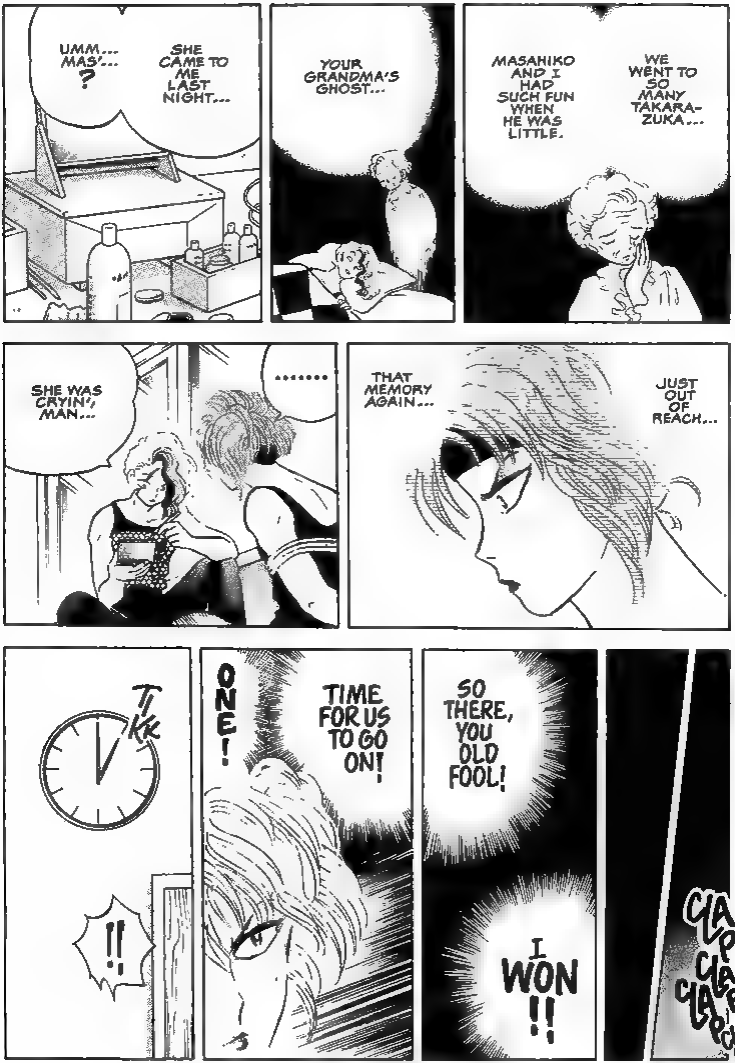

SOUNDS LIKE WE NEED A NEW MEMBER.
TOO BAD HARDLY ANYBODY IS INTO BEING IN BANDS THESE DAYS...
WE CAN'T DO IT WITH JUST THREE GUYS!
THE SPIRIT WORLD... HOW STRANGE AND WONDER-FUL!

AUGUST 14. THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS.



Dressing Rooms


HEH HEH HEH HEHH! TRY TO GET TO YOUR DUMB SHOW NOW, WITCH!
STOP WIGGLING AND LET ME DO YOUR MAKEUP.
SQUIRM...
HE'S IN YOUR HANDS NOW, YUZ'.


UMM... MAS'...?
SHE CAME TO ME LAST NIGHT...
YOUR GRANDMA'S GHOST...
MASAHIKO AND I HAD SUCH FUN WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.
WE WENT TO SO MANY TAKARA-ZUKA...
SHE WAS CRYIN', MAN...
.....
THAT MEMORY AGAIN...
JUST OUT OF REACH...
TIK
!!
ONE!
TIME FOR US TO GO ON!
SO THERE, YOU OLD FOOL!
I WON!!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

ENTRY NUMBER THIR-TEEN...
WILLOW!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
OOOH!
AAAAA!

HEE HEE HEEE HEE HEE HEEEEE!
FOOOOM
WHAT THE HELL !?
HUH-?
WHY'D YOU DRESS HIM LIKE THAT!?

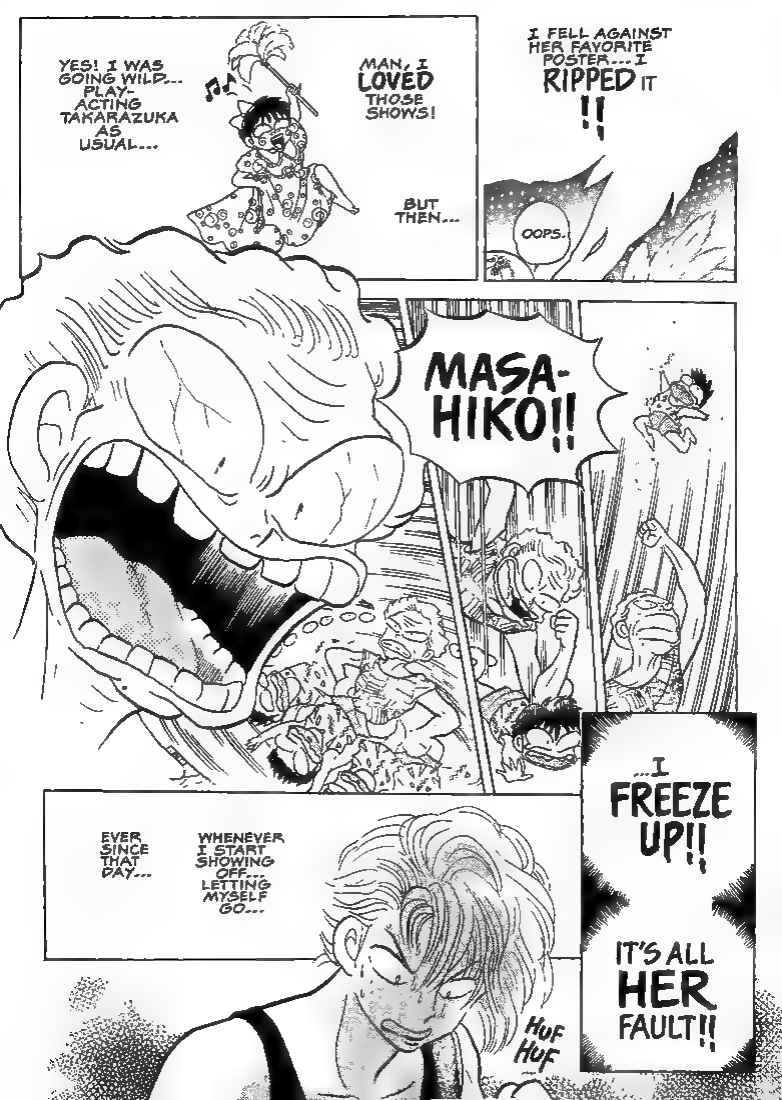
WHA--?
I...I DON'T... REMEMBER...
UHH...
ONE HALF OF HIM IS FINE...
BUT THE OTHER HALF...
...IS A TAKARAZUKA FREAK!!
HEE HEE HEE HEE
YOU LOVED THOSE SHOWS TOO, MASAHIKO!
WHY DID YOU TURN AGAINST ME?!
IZZAT... IZZAT HER?
EVIL SPIRITS!!
WHAT DO WE DO?!
WE IGNORE HIM AND PLAY, THAT'S WHAT!!

BUT, MAS'...!
LET HIM PRANCE AROUND!
WE GOTTA DO IT WITHOUT HIM!
!
YOU... YOU ROTTEN OLD...
FW IK
FW IK
DON'T TALK TO GRANDMA LIKE THAT!
THIS IS MY STAGE!
FW IK
HEE HEE HEEEE!
NOT ANY MORE!
FW IK
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE OVER!
BWAAAAA
GNNN
VOOOMMM
SNIF SNIF SNIF
SOB SOB

RRR
ROOOOOOAR
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP
THIS FEELING... OF RELEASE... OF FREEDOM!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG! HOW COULD I HAVE LOST IT?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME...?
THEY... THEY ACTUALLY LIKE US...
BUT IT'S NOT MY SOUND! IT'S NOT MY VISION!
BOO HOO HOO
AW-RIGHT! MY OWN OUT-OF-BODY EXPERI-ENCE!

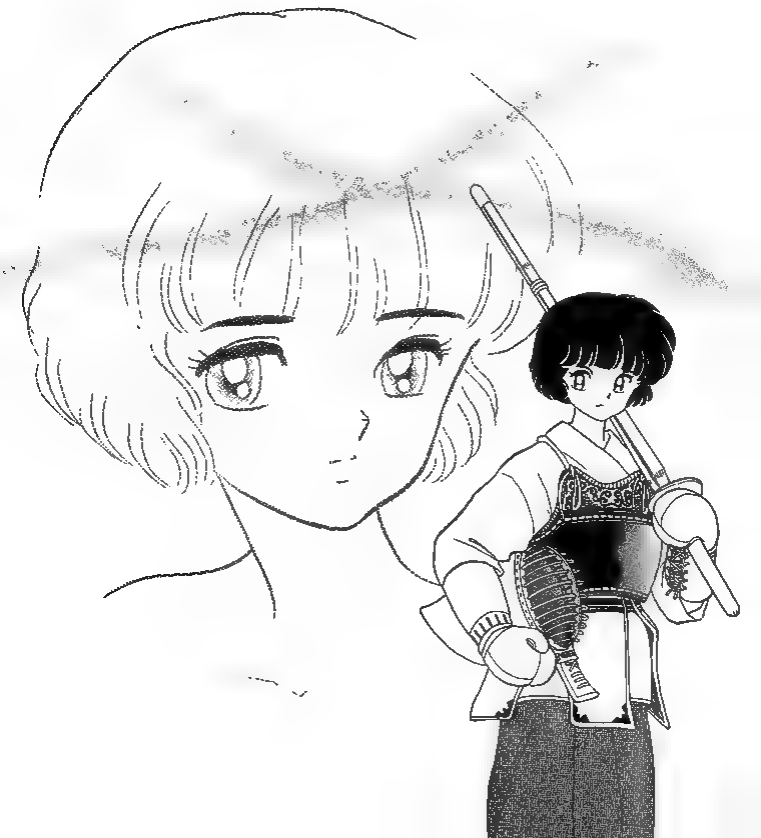
MASAHIKO? ARE YOU MAD AT GRANDMA...?
....
....
I WON'T COME TO YOU AGAIN, DARLING...
SO PLEASE CONSIDER MY LAST REQUEST...
AUGUST FIF-TEENTH. HIBIYA MUSICAL THEATER.
CLAP
CLAP
SO... YOU CAME YOUR-SELF...
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
...AT HER REQUEST.

YOU'RE DOING A GOOD THING.
TAKARA ZUKA
NOT REALLY.
I THOUGHT I MIGHT REMEMBER SOMETHING IF I CAME HERE...
MASA-HIKO...
---THANK YOU FOR ACCOMPANY-ING ME.
OLD WITCH.
I CAN REST NOW, WITHOUT REGRETS...
JUST ENJOYING ONE MORE SHOW WITH YOU...
---FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THAT DAY...
GOOD-BYE...
HER SPIRIT HAS LEFT US.
GRAND-MA...
SINCE "THAT DAY"?
THAT DAY!!

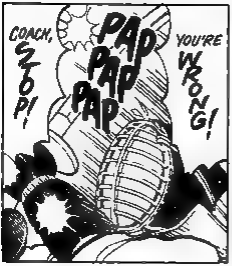

YES! I WAS GOING WILD... PLAY-ACTING TAKARAZUKA AS USUAL...
MAN, I LOVED THOSE SHOWS!
BUT THEN...
I FELL AGAINST HER FAVORITE POSTER... I RIPPED IT !!
OOPS..
MASA-HIKO!!
...I FREEZE UP!!
IT'S ALL HER FAULT!!
EVER SINCE THAT DAY...
WHENEVER I START SHOWING OFF... LETTING MYSELF GO...
HUF HUF

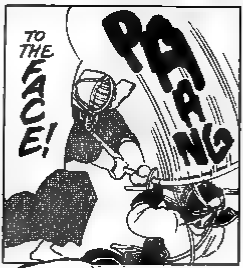
COME BACK HERE, YOU OLD HAG--
AND I'LL KILL YOU AGAIN!
SHE'S NOT HERE... ANY LONGER.
.....
....
PROGRAM
GOOD LUCK TO YOU, YOUNG MAN.
UM...
PROGRAM
D'YOU THINK MAYBE...
WE COULD GET TICKETS FOR NEXT SEASON ?

CHAPTER SEVEN
ONE OR DOUBLE



WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, MIYAMOTO?!
YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
PA NG
SHH PAP
COACH, YOU GOTTA LISTEN TO ME!
DMM DMM DMM


COACH, STOP!
PAP PAP PAP
YOU'RE WRONG!


TO THE FACE!
PA NG

DNSH
TR RR RR RR
CHI CHI CHI...

LOOK AT YOU, MIYAMOTO!!
ZZ AA
IT HURTS ME TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS!

YOU COULD BE A CHAMPION IF YOU WOULD JUST TRY!
IF YOU COULD JUST GET OVER YOUR HATRED OF PRACTICE!
COACH, YOU GOTTA LISTEN!
DON'T TELL ME I'M WRONG, MIYAMOTO!!
BUT I'M NOT MIYA-MOTO!
BAA
SASAKI?!
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU...
HE NEVER LISTENS...
WHERE'S MIYA-MOTO?!?
HE RAN AWAY.
TRRRGGG CHI CHI CHI...
SHINKEN HIGH SCHOOL KENDO CAMP.
UGH.
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE.

MIYA-MOTO?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH ALL YOUR STUFF?
ICHIYA-NAGI...
KEE EE EE
I'M GOING BACK TO TOKYO.
I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF COACH WAKATABE.
I ONLY BECAME THE KENDO CLUB COORDINATOR BECAUSE YOU WERE IN THE CLUB...
....
....
...BE-CAUSE YOU SAID IT WAS YOUR FAVORITE.
OHHH... BUT I WAS GOING TO MAKE CURRY TONIGHT...

....
....
CHIR-RRING
UMM... ICHIYA-NAGI...?
SQUIRM SQUIRM
DID YOU MEAN IT WHEN YOU SAID...
JUST KID-DING!
SSHHHHHHHHH
MIYA-MOTO!!
SSSHHHHHHH
URK.
COACH?!
EXCUSE ME, THAT BIKE THAT WAS STANDING HERE...
OH.
OUR COACH BOR-ROWED IT...
BUT WE TOLD HIM NOT TO USE IT BECAUSE THE BRAKES ARE BROKEN...!
HE NEVER LISTENS.
MIYAMOTO, YOU'RE BREAKIN' MY HEART!!
HEY!!
STOP!
SSS
HHHH

ZZONNNNG
KARA KARA KARA
AN ACCI-DENT!
ZOSHH...
KARA KARA
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
MIYA-MOTO... HELP ME.
GRR GRR GRR
MIYA-MOTO..
ICHIYA-NAGI!
GASP!
ICHIYA-NAGI!!

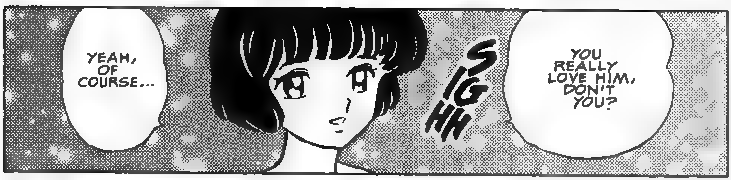
WH-WHERE...?
THE HOSPI-TAL...?
MIYAMOTO... WE WERE AFRAID YOU...
HOW IS... ICHIYA-NAGI?
I WAS WITH HER WHEN...
OH... NAGISA...
THEY FOUND HER... THEY TRIED EVERY-THING...
BUT...
NO... NO!

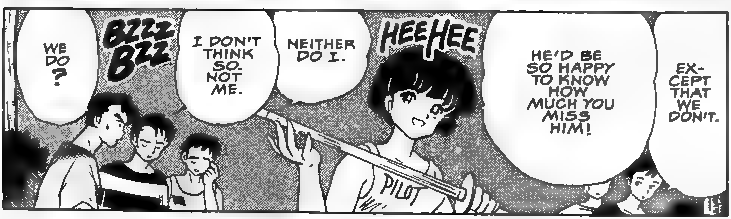
FSSSH
CHIYA-NAGI...
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
IT... IT'S MY FAULT...
IF ONLY I HADN'T RUN AWAY FROM CAMP...
SHE'D STILL BE...
YUP.
BUT I FOR-GIVE YOU!
PAM

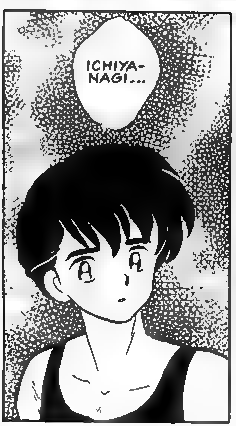
MWUUK
SORRY IF I SCARED YOU, MIYAMOTO.
C'MON! LET'S GET BACK TO CAMP!
YYAAAAAAA
CHI
!CHIYANAG..
...LET'S GO.

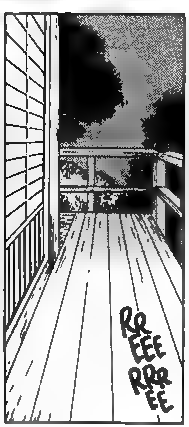
HAH
HAH
BU
BU
PILOT
THAT NAGISA...
.....
SHE'S GOT SOME ENERGY.
IT'S NO USE.
SHA
THEY CAN'T FIND COACH WAKATABE.
THEY'RE CALLING OFF THE SEARCH FOR THE NIGHT.
THEN... THEN HE REALLY MUST BE...
DOYO DOYO
OH.
I WAS WONDERING WHY EVERYBODY LOOKED SO DOWN.

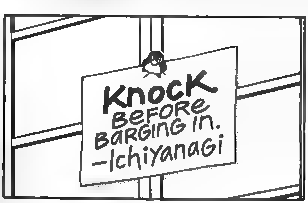
YOU'VE ALL BEEN WORRYING ABOUT THE COACH.
OF COURSE.
SUMMER!
18


YEAH, OF COURSE...
SIGHH
YOU REALLY LOVE HIM, DON'T YOU?


WE DO?
BZZZ BZZ
I DON'T THINK SO. NOT ME.
NEITHER DO I.
HEE HEE
HE'D BE SO HAPPY TO KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MISS HIM!
EXCEPT THAT WE DON'T.
PILOT


ICHIYANAGI...

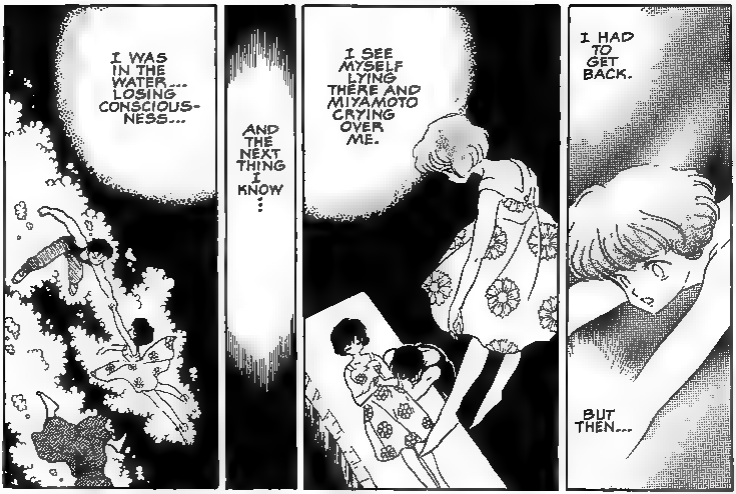

RRREEE RRREE


Knock before barging in. -Ichiyanagi

ICHIYANAGI... YOU STILL AWAKE?
YEAH, COME IN.

WUZZUP, MIYA-MOTO...??
GIRRR!
American
S-S-S-SORRY!!
DASH!!
WRR
SOME-THING...
WEIRD IS GOING ON HERE.
DOPDOPDOP
IS SHE IN SHOCK FROM THE ACCI-DENT?
OR COULD IT BE....
DOPDOPDOP
BIWA
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE ANOTHER PEEK....
DON'T LOOK!!
PAKONG
HUH??
DOG

FFFFFFF
WAAAA
GRRRR
GRRRR
UH...
ICH-ICHI-
ICHIYANAGI
?!?
B-BUT IF YOU'RE HERE... THEN WHO IS...IS...
WHATSA MATTER ??
D'YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME OR...
RAG
RAG
SKRCH SKRCH
WAAK!!
OH, DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
HUH ?
HUH ?


I WAS IN THE WATER... LOSING CONSCIOUSNESS...
AND THE NEXT THING I KNOW...
I SEE MYSELF LYING THERE AND MIYAMOTO CRYING OVER ME.
I HAD TO GET BACK.
BUT THEN...

IT'S A RACE NOW, ICHIYA-NAGI!
SPLASH
HUH?!

DONG
CHOOP
OOF.
HHSSSSHH
Y-YOU-YOU'RE... THE COACH...
RRR RRRR
OKAY. I AD-MIT IT.
BUT I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU.

MY SOUL CAN'T REST UNTIL I'VE TRAINED YOU TO YOUR FULL POTENTIAL.
EVEN DYING CAN'T KNOCK ANY SENSE INTO YOU!
COACH... PLEASE GET OUT OF MY BODY.
ICHIYA-NAGI...
...CAN I PUMP UP THESE LOUSY BICEPS O' YOURS?
'COURSE I CAN.
HWAA HWAA
I SAID... GET OUT!
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO HER.
DON'T CRY, ICHIYA-NAGI.
I'LL... I'LL HELP YOU. I PROMISE.
SOB SOB SOB SOB...
IT'S... IT'S ALL...
...ALL MY FAULT, ANYWAY.
OH, MIYA-MOTO...

NOW THAT EVERY-THING'S CLEAR...
TRRREEE CHRA CHRA
...LET'S GET ON WITH OUR TRAINING!
ESPECI-ALLY YOU, MIYA-MOTO!
NO MORE SLACK-ING OFF!
HYAAAAA!
WAK!
DADA DADA DADA
B-B-BUT I'M NOT...
SHPAPP
SHPSP
TSUKA-HARA? WHAT'S THE IDEA?!
I'M OVER HERE, DORK!

IF I SCORE ONE POINT OFF YOU... YOU LEAVE ICHIYANAGI'S BODY.
DEAL?!
BHHHH
FINE WITH ME.
WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.
ZHA
MIYAMOTO...
I NEVER SAW A GHOST BEFORE.
TECHNICALLY, SHE'S STILL JUST A SOUL.
BAAA

SHH PAP PAP
GOOD LUCK, MIYAMOTO!
SEE?
I TOLD YOU YOU SHOULD PRACTICE EVERY DAY.
ONNSH
AAAAA!!
GASP!
SHE'S THE COACH, ALL RIGHT.
SHE'S GOOD!
YOU CALL THOSE LEGS?!
UP AND DOWN! FIFTY LAPS!!
HEEEEH
TH-THAT... SON OF...
ZEE-HA ZEE-HA
PAP PAP PAP PAP
SHHH!
OHO. AN OPENING...
P-PONNG
GET REAL!!
HAHA HAHA! THIS IS GREAT!!
I FEEL SO YOUNG!

KILL 'IM.
KILL 'IM.
BY GOD
BY GOD
SHNORR
MIYAMOTO IS PRACTICING ON HIS OWN...
PLAY-ING RIGHT INTO COACH'S HANDS.
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
THANKS SO MUCH...
...FOR GETTING MY HOPES UP.
HEY, HEY! I'M DOING MY BEST HERE!
YOU OUGHTTA BE! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
HEY! ICHIYA-NAGI!
HUH ??

I WAS TIDYING UP YOUR STUFF AND I FOUND THIS...
A DIARY, MAYBE ??
I CAN READ IT, RIGHT? 'COURSE I CAN.
OF COURSE...
SMASH
NOT!!
HEY! THAT'S YOUR OWN BODY...
PKOOB
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
WHEW.

HOW LONG IS THIS GOING TO GO ON... ??
MMM
MIYA-MOTO... DAR-LING...
"DAR-LING" ?!
HWA
ICHIYA-NAGI ?!
IS IT REALLY YOU ?!?
MIYA-MOTO, DAR-LING...
YOUR HANDS... ALL COVERED WITH BLISTERS...
GYU
D-DMP
I'M SO HAPPY... THAT YOU WOULD DO ALL THIS FOR ME...
D-DMP D-DMP
ICHIYA-NAGI...

HUH...?
NOW WHAT...??
PLEASE. DON'T CALL ME BY MY LAST NAME.
CALL ME NAGISA.
SIGH
NA...
NAGI...
SSSBBBTHHHT
.....
HA!
SO, MIYA-MOTO...
...YOU'VE REALLY GOT THE HOTS FOR HER, DON'T YOU?!
SHUMP
HAW!!
COACH... WHAT... D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...??
YOU WERE IN HEAVEN! ADMIT IT, BOY! HA HA HAAA!!

YES, I WAS HAPPY.
GRR GRR GRR
BECAUSE I WOULDN'T HAVE TO PUT IN ALL THIS STUPID PRACTICE IF YOU WERE OUT OF HER STUPID BODY ALREADY!
BONK
UH.
OH, ICHIYANAGI, THERE YOU ARE.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE SUCH A BOTHER.
SHUU
!!
HUH ?!

ICHIYANAGI, WHAT IS IT? YOU'RE GETTIN' PALER...
...EVEN CONSIDERING YOU'RE A GHOST, I MEAN.
I...I DON'T KNOW.
THIS IS BAD!
HER LINK TO THIS WORLD MIGHT BE WEARING THIN.
THEN, UNLESS SHE GETS BACK SOON...
...SHE MIGHT DISAPPEAR FOREVER!!
TREEE CHWA CHWA
BETTER DO IT, MIYAMOTO.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE HER, YOU KNOW.
SSHHUUUU...
BZZZ BZZ

UMM... COACH...
WE DON'T WANT TO BUTT IN, BUT...
WON'T NAGISA BE SAVED IF YOU JUST GIVE HER BACK HER BODY NOW...?
YOU CAN DO IT, MIYAMOTO.
HE NEVER LISTENS.
LET'S GO, WAKATABE.
ZHAA
GOOD LUCK, MIYAMOTO...

DAAA AAA!!
SHPAP PAP PAP
HEH.
YOU'RE SHARPER, MIYAMOTO.
BUT...
SHAA
HE WHH
...YOU'RE NOT READY TO BEAT ME YET!!
PAP PAP PAP
DNN DNN DNN
IS HE JUST STUBBORN... OR REALLY STUPID?
I DON'T WANT TO GO...
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU FOREVER...
MIYA-MOTO!

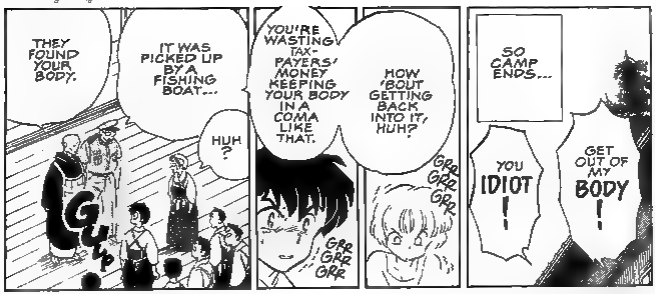
EEGGH CHWA CHWA CHWA
.....
SH PAM PAM PA M
DAA DAAA A DAA
AYYYAAA !!
DWOKK
SHOMP
UGH!
MIYA-MOTO...
ICHI... YANAGI...
SHE'S... SHE'S FADING AWAY...
ZEE-HA ZEE-HA

NO! WAIT!
THE FIGHT ISN'T OVER YET!
BAH
WHEN I'M GONE...
...YOU CAN READ THIS...
WH-WHEN YOU'RE...
??
ICHIYA-NAGI, NO !!
YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE IN ME !!
.....
DON'T THINK. JUST BELIEVE.

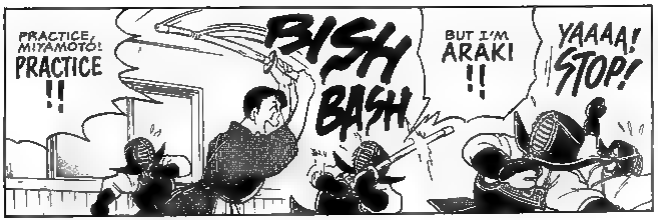
I DON'T WANT TO READ HER DIARY.
I WANT TO GO ON TALKING TO HER.
THERE'S SO MUCH... I WANT TO TELL HER...
DYA AA!
DON'T LEAVE ME, ICHI-YANAGI!
MIYA-MOTO...

TO THE FADE!
A... A DRAW ?!?
NO!

YOU DID IT!
YOU TOOK A POINT, MIYAMOTO!
NOW I CAN REST. NO REGRETS.
.....
SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, ICHIYANAGI.
NOW... IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.
BOW
GOOD-BYE...?
THINK ABOUT ME SOMETIMES.
SO LONG.
COACH... WAIT!
COACH...
COACH!!


THEY FOUND YOUR BODY.
IT WAS PICKED UP BY A FISHING BOAT...
HUH?
GULP
YOU'RE WASTING TAX-PAYERS' MONEY KEEPING YOUR BODY IN A COMA LIKE THAT.
GRR GRR GRR
HOW 'BOUT GETTING BACK INTO IT, HUH?
GRR GRR GRR
SO CAMP ENDS...
YOU IDIOT!
GET OUT OF MY BODY!

AND THEN...

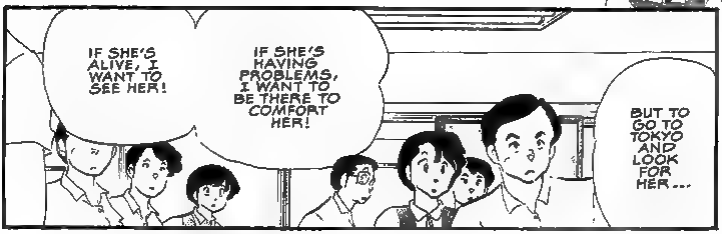

PRACTICE, MIYAMOTO! PRACTICE!!
BISH BASH
BUT I'M ARAKI!!
YAAAA! STOP!

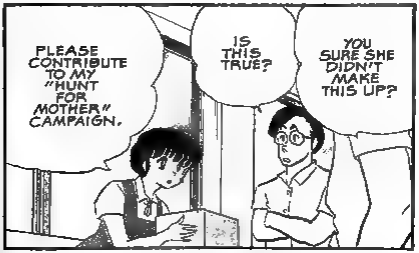
DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD PUT IN AN APPEAR-ANCE?
HE'LL NEVER NOTICE ONE MORE MISSING BODY...

CHAPTER EIGHT
HAPPY TALK

SHINJUKU DISTRICT: 7 P.M.
MY CITY
HINAKO...
HOW COULD YOU DO IT?
HOW COULD YOU JUST THROW MY GENEROSITY IN THE DIRT...
DING DONG DING DONG...
PLEASE LISTEN, EVERYONE.
I'VE LEARNED THAT MY REAL MOTHER...
WHO I WAS TOLD DIED WHEN I WAS THREE...
WAWAWA
...IS ALIVE.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
HINA WAS ADOPTED BY HER AUNT AND UNCLE, REMEMBER?
OH YEAH.
WE GOT A POST-CARD THE OTHER DAY...
...ADDRESSED TO MY "FATHER."

I never dreamed I'd run into you that way. You must have been surprised at how I've changed. If you should come to Tokyo again, please stop by the "Dream Party." How is Hina-chan doing? I'd love to see her one day. --Minako



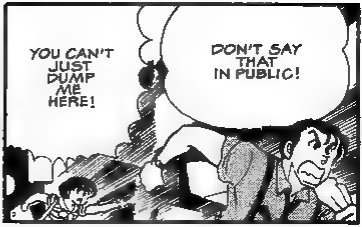


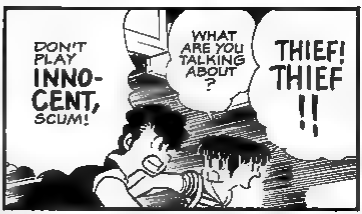
OBI...
THIS IS SO MUCH...
IT'S OKAY. I TRUST YOU.
THINK ABOUT IT.
IS HINA THE TYPE WHO WOULD LIE TO US?
AND IF SHE WERE...
...WOULD SHE BE STUPID ENOUGH TO MAKE SOMETHING UP THAT SOUNDS SO FAKE?
GOOD POINT.
HERE'S A BUCK.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR ALIBI?
HOW ABOUT SAYING YOU'RE GOING ON A TRIP WITH US?
THANK YOU, THANK YOU.
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOUR GENEROSITY!
WHAT A SAP I WAS...
IT WAS ALL A LIE!!

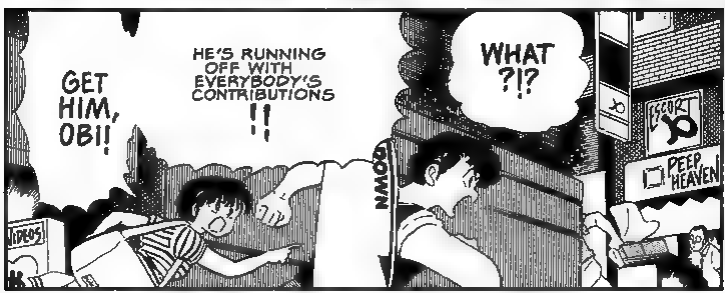
SO WHO IS THAT GUY...?!?
I OFFERED TO GO WITH HER, SO SHE WOULDN'T GET INTO TROUBLE.
BUT SHE SAID NO. SO I FOLLOWED HER. ONLY TO FIND...
HEY... I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD GO HOME.
NO. I WON'T LET YOU GO.
"LOOKING FOR HER MOTHER," SHE SAID.
HOTEL
I DIDN'T GIVE YOU MONEY TO SHACK UP WITH SOME JERK.
A GIRL LIKE YOU...
...DESERVES TO BE FOUND STRANGLED IN A "LOVE HOTEL"...

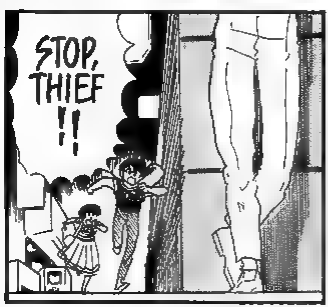
HOTEL
HOTEL
VACANCY
HEY!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
VACANCY
HINA!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
VMMMM
VACANCY
BOOM
OBI?!?
YOU KNOW HIM?
A CLASS-MATE.
A PUNK?
I DON'T THINK SO.
SO GO!
HEY!
HOTEL NUKU
DMMM

HINA, WHAT...?
HOTEL LOVE
MR. HAMA-MATSU!
WAIT!!
DOWN
WAIT
P


YOU CAN'T JUST DUMP ME HERE!
DON'T SAY THAT IN PUBLIC!


DON'T PLAY INNO-CENT, SCUM!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIEF! THIEF!!


GET HIM, OBI!
HE'S RUNNING OFF WITH EVERYBODY'S CONTRIBUTIONS!!
WHAT?!?
DOWN
ESCORT
PEEP HEAVEN


STOP, THIEF!!

BAM
DOWN

...A PRIVATE DETEC-TIVE?
RAMEN
MEN
YEAH... THIS IS MR. HAMAMATSU. I HIRED HIM TO HELP ME.
LISTEN, KIDS...
I WAS NOT RUNNING OFF WITH YOUR MONEY.
BE-SIDES, THAT WAS THE INVESTI-GATION FEE.
SORRY.
I'M JUST SO NERVOUS ABOUT THIS...
YOU'LL GET IN THE WAY OF MY WORK IF YOU TAG ALONG.
GO BACK HOME WITH YOUR CLASS-MATE.
.....
.....
OBI... WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE?
UHM... W-W-WELL...

I'M A WOMAN-IZER.
THE AGENCY I WORK FOR PAYS SQUAT.
THE ALLOWANCE THEY GIVE ME ISN'T ENOUGH TO RENT YOU A ROOM.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MONEY?
I USED IT ALL TO PAY HIM.
THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO SLEEP WITH ME.
NEVER, YOU, YOU, YOU--
BAM
SO TAKE... HER... HOME !!
I'M NOT LEAVING !
NEITHER AM I.
I CONTRIBUTED TEN THOUSAND YEN.
I'M A PAYING CUSTOMER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?!

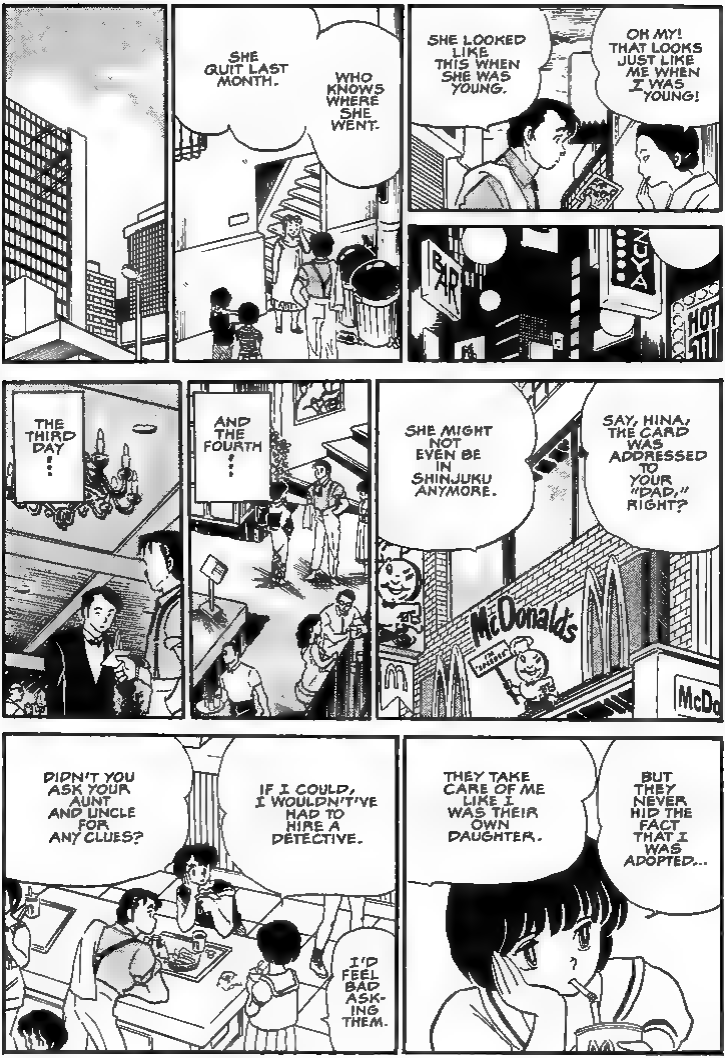
MILK
SNACK BAR
FLOWER GIRLS
.....
.....
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
KARAOKE
ONE BIG CLUE---THE POSTCARD'S SHINJUKU POSTMARK.
BUT WE DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S WHERE SHE LIVES OR WORKS.
THE NAME OF THE CLUB IS "DREAM PARTY."
BUT THERE'S A MILLION "DREAM PARTY" JOINTS AROUND HERE...
BARS, CLUBS, MOTELS, MASSAGE PARLORS...
I CALLED 'EM ALL BEFORE-HAND...
...AND PICKED OUT THE ONES THAT MIGHT MATCH.
THEN THERE'S THIS PICTURE...
...FROM HER STUDENT DAYS.
SHE'S PRETTY.
THANKS.
BAR
ARIZONA
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE HINA...

SIN
BAR
PEONY, COULD YOU SPARE A SECOND?
DREAM
MY REAL NAME'S MINAKO!
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
BAR
C'MON-- ME HAVE A KID THAT OLD?
I'M ONLY TWENTY-FOUR.
"TWENTY-FOUR," MY BUTT.
HEY, PRETTY BABY. WANNA UPGRADE?
YOU LIED, POPS.
YOU DO HAVE THE CASH.
UH HH
OHH... GEEZ...
J-JUST HOLD ON TO ME...
YOU RIP THE COAT, YOU PAY FOR IT, KID.
HOSPITAL
HOTEL
MASSAGE
DREAM
NEXT.
SERVICE FEES 20,000

HI, LI'L BOY... YOU COME TO PLAY?
UMM... NO, I...
"MINAKO"?
COULD BE ONE O' THE GIRLS' REAL NAMES...
WAIT ONE SEC.
....
...
HOW CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
HSSH
OH, UHH...
SHH SHH SHH
KILL HIM!
MY EX HIRED HIM TO GET ME!
YOU HEARD THE LADY.
WE'RE OBVIOUSLY IN ERROR.
LET'S GO.
SOME DETECTIVE YOU ARE!

HOTEL
LOOK, KID...
WHAT'S SHE GONNA DO...
...IF SHE FINDS HER REAL MOTHER, ANYWAY?
I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS...
MY AUNT AND UNCLE ARE VERY KIND TO ME...
CURIOSITY? IT'S KILLED A FEW KITTENS.
THERE'S PROBABLY A REASON THEY HAVEN'T TOLD YOU ABOUT HER.
BUT...
IN THE CARD SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO SEE ME...
I... I HAVE TO SEE HER... NOW THAT I KNOW...
.....
I'VE KNOWN HINA SINCE GRADE SCHOOL...
Rules
SUK
WAS Here
ONE DAY IN ART CLASS, WE HAD AN ASSIGN-MENT TO DRAW OUR MOTHERS' FACES...

.....
RRIP
GNCH
THE NEXT ONE SHE DREW...
...WAS OF HER AUNT.
SHE WAS OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON WHEN SHE WAS ADOPTED.
IT MUST'VE TAKEN HER A WHILE TO GET USED TO THEM.
I GUESS EVEN NOW...
...SHE DOESN'T FEEL TOTALLY AT EASE...
OH YEAH... ?
SHE SEEMS PRETTY MUCH AT EASE...
...WHEN SHE'S TAKING OVER THE WHOLE FUTON.
I'M TALKING ABOUT HER AUNT AND UNCLE!
.....
.....
ZZZ


SHE QUIT LAST MONTH.
WHO KNOWS WHERE SHE WENT.
SHE LOOKED LIKE THIS WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG.
OH MY! THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE ME WHEN I WAS YOUNG!
BAR
HOT
THE THIRD DAY...
AND THE FOURTH...
SHE MIGHT NOT EVEN BE IN SHINJUKU ANYMORE.
SAY, HINA, THE CARD WAS ADDRESSED TO YOUR "DAD," RIGHT?
McDonald's
DIDN'T YOU ASK YOUR AUNT AND UNCLE FOR ANY CLUES?
IF I COULD, I WOULDN'T'VE HAD TO HIRE A DETECTIVE.
I'D FEEL BAD ASKING THEM.
THEY TAKE CARE OF ME LIKE I WAS THEIR OWN DAUGHTER.
BUT THEY NEVER HID THE FACT THAT I WAS ADOPTED...

...WHICH IS WHY IT'S SO WEIRD THAT THEY TOLD ME MY MOM WAS DEAD WHEN SHE ISN'T.
SHE LOOKS LIKE THIS...
TOP CLUB
HEY, THIS PICTURE...
IT REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE...
DEFINITELY. THIS IS MINA-CHAN WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG.
SHE'S WORKING AT A PLACE CALLED "THE CLOUDS."
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT IT.
SHE'S OUT RIGHT NOW, BUT...

THEY SAID SHE MENTIONED A GIRL CALLED HINAKO BEFORE...
WE DID IT, HINA!
THIS MUST BE HER!
Y-Y-YEAH.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU DON'T LOOK TOO THRILLED.
OH... I AM... REALLY...
THANKS.
BOTH OF YOU... THANK YOU.
ROOM FOR 2
LOUNGE
BAR
HERE IT IS.
COME ON.
OH... GEEZ...
CLOSED

IT... IT'S KIND OF...
...S-SCARY.
.....
...
ALL RIGHT. WAIT HERE, THEN.
I'LL CALL YOU UP AFTER I CONFIRM IT.
ROOMS
CLOCK
TNG TNG
I'M HAMAMATSU. I JUST CALLED HERE ABOUT...
OOOH, I'VE BEEN WAIT-ING!
I'M MINAKO !!
WHERE'S HINA-CHAN ?!?
.....
!!
GASP!

H-H-HOLD IT.
TAKE A LOOK!
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS POSTCARD ?!
OH...IT'S THE ONE I SENT TO HINA-CHAN'S UNCLE!
SEE? THAT'S ME.
NEXT TO ME ARE HINA-CHAN'S FATHER AND MOTHER.
WE WERE LIKE FAMILY!
HOW ABOUT THIS PICTURE... ?
OF COURSE I RECOGNIZE IT.
WHY DO YOU CALL YOURSELF MINAKO... ?
HEE HEE HEE
HINA-CHAN'S MOTHER...
...WAS THE ONLY WOMAN I EVER LOVED.
POOR MINAKO.
SIGH...
WHEN SHE PASSED AWAY, I TOOK HER NAME!
HEE HEE HEE
LISTEN... BUDDY...
...D'YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
HM ?
WHAT'S THE MATTER ??

HE'S TAKING A WHILE...
YEAH.
MAYBE IT'S ANOTHER MIS-TAKE...
THEN HE'D HAVE TO COME OUT RIGHT AWAY.
LET'S GO LOOK.
WHAT?
BUT...
NO BUTS.
DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR MOM OR NOT?
YEAH.
OH MY!
SHE THOUGHT I WAS HER MOTHER?! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
GOOD QUESTION, MISTER.
MR. HAMA-MATSU...
.....
YIP
.....
.....
SPARE

.....
.....
.....
.....
MOTHER...?
.....
.....
OH, HINA-CHAN... I'M SO SORRY...
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
LISTEN, KID...
.....
.....
WHAT'S THE MATTER...
!?
DON'T CRY.
PL-PLEASE LOOK AT ME...
MO--
--TH...

SO NOW WHAT...?
I FOUND THE PERSON WHO SENT THE POSTCARD, WHICH ENTITLES ME TO FULL PAYMENT...
...BUT UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES, I'LL LET IT GO...
JUST FOR YOU!
WE TOLD YOU TO JUST GO HOME AND LET HIM TAKE CARE OF IT!
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT YOUR "MOM" STEPPING FORWARD NOW!!
BE GRATEFUL, KID...YOU SAVED SIXTY THOUSAND YEN!
I'M SORRY...
...I'M SORRY THAT I'M NOT A WOMAN.

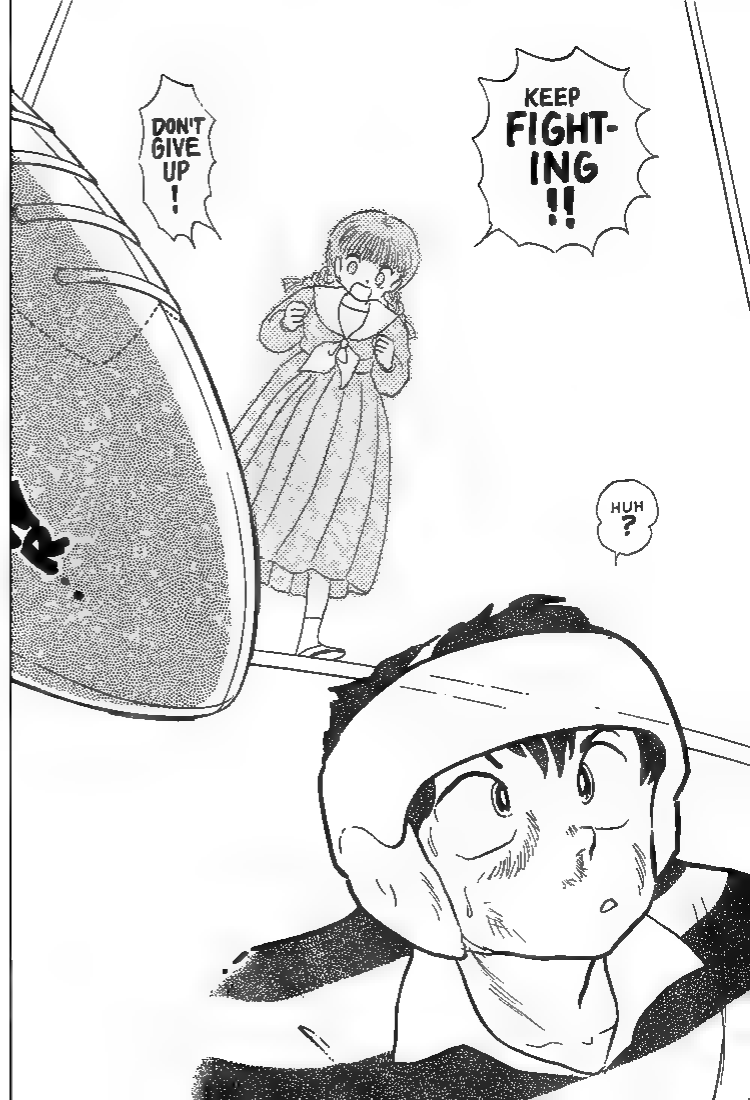
SHE HASN'T SPOKEN SINCE YESTERDAY.
CAN YOU BLAME HER? MUST'VE BEEN QUITE A SHOCK.
I GUESS ANYBODY WOULD CRY...
...IF THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A MOM AND FOUND HIM.
I'M GLAD IT WASN'T HER MOM IN THAT PLACE.
YEAH. I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.
MAYBE SHE CRIED BECAUSE SHE WAS RELIEVED.
C'MON, KID, DON'T FOOL YOURSELF.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
HUH?
YOU WERE LISTEN-ING?
M-M-MAYBE I AM RE-LIEVED.
I MEAN...
...I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I'D DO AFTER I MET HER.

I WAS SO DUMB.
I REALLY LOVE...
...MY AUNT AND UNCLE.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO PUT UP WITH ALL THIS...
COULD YOU...
...DO ME JUST ONE MORE FAVOR?
GIVE ME A HUG!

PWEEE

CHAPTER NINE

WINGED VICTORY

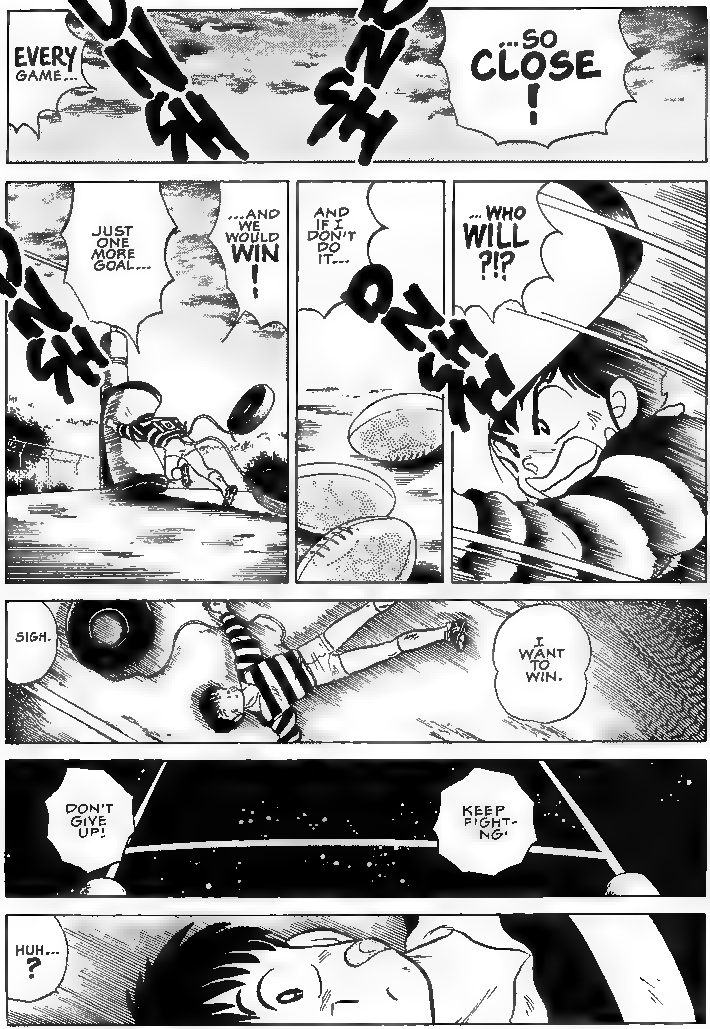


KEEP FIGHT-ING !!
.....
LOOK ! SHE'S BACK !
HERE WE GO AGAIN...
C'MON, DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T SEE HER THIS TIME!
SHMP SHMP
SAD, AIN'T IT?
I HATE TO THINK WHAT OUR LOOOCH LOSS'LL DO TO HIM.
THEY REALLY CAN'T SEE HER.
EVERY GAME, EVERY LOSS, THE SAME THING...

YAKIHATA AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
DIS-BANDING !?
RUGBY CLUB
AFTER OUR 1000th STRAIGHT LOSS NEXT WEEK...
...THE RUGBY CLUB WILL BE PERMANENTLY DIS-BANDED !
B-B-BUT COACH !
WHATTYA MEAN, OUR 1000th STRAIGHT LOSS ?!?
DON'T COUNT US OUT 'TIL WE'VE PLAYED THE GAME !!
BAK

FORGET IT, KANGO.
IT'S DAD'S DECI-SION-- I MEAN--
THE PRINCI-PAL'S DECI-SION.
BUT WE'LL WIN NEXT TIME!!
WAA HA HA HAA!!
AND ONE MORE... HA!
OH, TAKE YOUR ONE MORE... AND STUFF IT!
M-M-MR. PRINCI-PAL...
AND WHAT WAS YOUR LEGACY AS THE CLUB'S FIRST CAPTAIN?
THE FIRST 49 STRAIGHT LOSSES, THAT'S WHAT!
URK!!
YOU KNOW WHY WE ALWAYS LOSE?
HMPH!
BECAUSE OF YOUR SELFISH PLAYING, THAT'S WHY!
HEH.

DON'T...
GWAAA
...TALK BACK TO YOUR FATHER!
A CLOTHES-LINE TACKLE!
FOUL! FOUL!
"SELF-ISH PLAY-ING..."
DOSU
...IS OUR TEAM TRADI-TION!!
DAD! KANGO! STOP IT!
YEAH?!?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR 59 STRAIGHT LOSSES?!?
COULD YOU GUYS PLEASE TAKE THIS OUTSIDE?
TOO GOOD
SHUT UP!!
DON'T TALK BACK TO YOUR BIG BROTHER!
BONK


EVERY GAME...
DNZE
DNZE
...SO CLOSE!
JUST ONE MORE GOAL...
...AND WE WOULD WIN!
DNZE
AND IF I DON'T DO IT...
DNZE
...WHO WILL ?!?
SIGH.
I WANT TO WIN.
DON'T GIVE UP!
KEEP FIGHTING!
HUH...?

I'M ROOTING FOR YOU.
GLAK!
YOU CAN DO IT! RAH! RAH!
Y-Y-YOU... YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU?!
DMP DMP DMP
THE GODDESS OF VICTORY!

G-G-GUH... G-GUH..
G-G-GOD-DESS...
I'VE BEEN ROOTING FOR YOU GUYS..
...SINCE YOUR RUGBY CLUB STARTED.
...OF VICTORY ??
YUP.
SINCE IT...
...STARTED ?!?
THEN YOU'RE THE REASON WE'VE LOST...
...999 GAMES IN A ROW !
OH, PLEASE !!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BLAME ME BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THE WILL TO WIN!

THAT DOES IT!
SEE IF I ROOT FOR YOU ANYMORE !!
WHA -
SSSS
PBTH!
WHA--
BLINK
OH..
A DREAM...
SIGH
NO... IT WASN'T...
ZZZ

LISTEN, YOU!
IF YOU DON'T QUIT BUGGIN' ME---
FOOEY!
I HOPE YOU LOSE BIG-TIME!
THANK YOU!
WITHOUT YOUR "SUPPORT"!..
...MAYBE WE'VE GOT A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN HELL OF WIN-NING!
BLE-AHH!
KANGO'S TALKIN' TO HIMSELF AGAIN.
HE GETS WORSE EVERY DAY.
DMP DMP
KRAK
FAREWELL, YAKIHATA RUGBY CLUB.

WHADDYA THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?!
THE CLUB I FOUNDED IS ABOUT TO PLAY ITS FINAL MATCH.
YUU
HOH
BOMP
LET ME SAY FAREWELL WITH GRACE.
KRAK
KRAK
QUIT-TER!
I WAS JUST GETTIN' PSYCHED FOR THE GAME!
SHI
FUWA
HUH?
THAT'S...
TH-TH-THAT'S...
EH?

TH...
TH...
TH...
OH... PRETTY, WASN'T SHE?
HER NAME WAS TSUKIKO.
SHE WAS THE FIRST MANAGER OF THE RUGBY CLUB.
KRAKL
KRAKL
WHA--?
WE USED TO CALL HER...
...OUR "GODDESS OF VICTORY."
KEEP FIGHTING!!
WHENEVER WE HEARD HER CHEERING, NO MATTER WHAT THE SCORE...
WE WON OUR FIRST TEN GAMES.
BUT TSUKIKO...
...WE FOUND THE WILL TO WIN.
THEN...
WE'VE ACTUALLY WON BEFORE...??

---WAS BORN WITH A WEAK HEART.
I'M SORRY...
I CAN'T CHEER FOR YOU AT THE NEXT GAME...
THAT GAME, OUR 11TH...
---WAS A TOUGH ONE.
WE WERE LOSING HEART.
WHEN!!
DON'T GIVE UP!!
KEEP FIGHTING!!
I COULD SEE HER CLEAR AS DAY.
IT'S TSUKI!
TSUKI'S HERE!
MY COURAGE SOARED!

BUT... WE FELL SHORT...
GAME OVER !!
TSU-KIKO...
...HAD DIED DURING THE GAME.
THEN... SHE'S A GHOST...
I'VE BEEN ROOTING FOR YOU GUYS...
...SINCE YOUR RUGBY CLUB STARTED.
WHY... DID YOU LOSE...?
HM?
WHY DID YOU LOSE?!?
IF YOU HAD WON--
--SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REST IN PEACE !!
GWASHHA

LISTEN TO ME.
THAT GIRL, TSUKIKO...
...IS STILL CHEERING FOR THE CLUB!
I'M GLAD I HAVE TWO SONS...
YOU'VE GOTTA WIN!
BWOK
TO THINK THAT THE GIRL WHO CHEERED FOR ME...
...WAS A GHOST...
Y-Y-YOU... YOU MEAN...
SOB SOB
...YOU SAW HER TOO?!
ALL THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL.
WHY DIDN'T YOU WIN?!
BWAK
I OVERDID IT AND INJURED MY HIP!
TSUKI...
...IS HAUNTING US...!?

THE DAY OF THE GAME...
HEY, IT'S THE RUGBY CLUB'S LAST STAND!
LET'S GO WATCH 'EM CRY!
NOBODY'S EVER LOST A THOUSAND IN A ROW BEFORE!
TSU-KIKO...
ARE YOU HERE WITH US?
RA-FI-
RA-FI-
FEH!
....
....

TSUKI...
ARE YOU CHEERING FOR US.... SOMEWHERE?
RAHH RAHH
OKAY, JERK...
TAKE THIS!
YET
LOSERS!
SHE'S HERE!!
ALL RIGHT!!
HYA AAH!!
DDDDD
FOR YOU, TSUKIKO!!

WE'LL WIN THIS TIME!
WE CAN'T BE IN TROUBLE AGAINST YAKIHATA!
VROOOM
GET THE BALL!
NRRRUH!!
GOAL!
SHAA
PWU
HALF TIME!
14 TO 15? THAT'S A CLOSE GAME!
IT'S ALWAYS A CLOSE GAME!

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF A LITTLE HARD, KANGO?
HH HH
WE GOT ANOTHER HALF TO PLAY, Y'KNOW.
HH HH
SUH... SUH... SORRY...
B-B-BUT I...
...I GOTTA DO IT...
HH HH HH
PW.....
HALF-TIME'S OVER!
.....
....
DDDDD
RA HH
RA HH

VSSHHH
IF WE LOSE TO YAKIMATA WE'LL BE LAUGHING-STOCKS !!
ANOTHER THREE-POINTER AND WE WIN !
39 TO 41!
DDDD
CRUSH 'IM!
FOR TSUKI !!

POW!
HEY, KANGO, YOU OKAY...?
IS IT A CONCUSSION?
THE REST OF 'EM ARE WIMPS.
WE'LL MAKE 'EM QUIT RUGBY.
YOU GOTTA HAND IT TO 'EM, THEY'RE CONSISTENT.
Y'KNOW, I'M GONNA MISS THOSE LOSERS.
NUMBER 1000 COMIN' UP, MORONS!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
GRRRR
BAM!
.....

DON'T BOTHER.
WHA--
WHAT ARE YOU...
DON'T WASTE YOUR STRENGTH !!
I'M...
I'M A LOUSY GODDESS OF VICTORY AFTER ALL.
NO!
GO AP
IF WE LOSE, THE CLUB IS FINISHED !!
HUH?
WE'RE GONNA WIN !!
CHEER FOR US !!

I'LL MAKE YOU...
...INTO A GODDESS OF VICTORY!
THE CLOCK'S RUNNING DOWN!
RAAH
RAAH
KEEP MOVIN', KANGO!
IF YOU'RE TACKLED, IT'S OVER!!
ONE... MORE...
GOAL!!
OH, NO YOU DON'T!!
WHUMP
UGH!
WE'LL LOSE!!
I-SU-KI!!

GLOMP
WE... WILL... NOT... LOSE !!
NYAUGH
TH- THEY LIFTED HIM!
WAAA
K- KEEP GOING !!
WE WILL !!
GRRRR

DM DM DM DM DM
KEEP FIGHTING !!
HUH ?!
WH-WHO'S THAT GIRL ??
!?
!!
Y'MEAN...
...YOU GUYS CAN SEE HER?!

DON'T GIVE UP!!
GOAL !!
BOOOOOM
WE DID IT!
PWUUUUUU...
GAME OVER !!
WE...
WAAA
BWAK
WAAA
WE WON! WE WON!

SEE? I KNEW MY CHEERING WOULD WIN THE GAME FOR YOU SOONER OR LATER!
WHAT ??
YOU'RE NOT GONNA REST ON YOUR LAURELS AFTER JUST ONE WIN, ARE YOU?!
JUST KEEP CHEERING UNTIL WE WIN THE NATIONAL CHAMPION-SHIP!
DON'T WORRY !
THERE'S A REASON THEY CALL ME THE GODDESS OF VICTORY !!
AND SO THERE WAS...!
THE END

TFT

The Furry Triangles

We Love Beavers.